

Last-minute call to Young postpones announcement

Cabinet anger as Bae halts deal for Rover

By Robin Oakley and Daniel Ward

The Government was plunged into a major political embarrassment yesterday when British Aerospace made a last-minute demand to reconsider the scheme whereby they were to take over the Rover car group, with generous government assistance.

Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and his deputy, Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, were forced to cancel the press conference at which they were to have announced the deal.

Instead, following the bad news from British Aerospace, delivered in a phone call from

Professor Roland Smith, the British Aerospace chairman, to Lord Young at around 1.30, they had to go to both Houses of Parliament to make holding statements, thus giving the Opposition a field day.

Mr Bryan Gould, Labour's Trade spokesman, said that the Government had got itself into "an unholy mess" and that Lord Young and the Prime Minister had suffered a

humiliating rebuff. And though an imperturbable Mr Clarke played some fierce opposition bowing with panache, he was left without an answer when asked what the Government intended to do if the British Aerospace bid for Rover fell through.

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Conservative MPs were clearly stunned and ministers angered by the behaviour of British Aerospace, particularly as it emerged that although the terms agreed in Brussels for the deal involved a reduction in the Government's cash injection from £800 million to £547 million, nothing in the basic structure of the deal had changed over the past week.

However, sources close to the negotiations were suggesting last night that the fine print of the Commission's terms contained implications which had "come out of the blue." The BAE board had first got wind of these new conditions late on Monday night, the sources said.

The negotiations have been carried on between the Government and the European Commission and did not involve the companies directly. Professor Smith, and Sir Raymond Lygo, the group chief executive, were "not the kind of men who can be bounced easily," the sources added.

The £331 million cut required by the Commission in the proposed £800 million package of Government support was more severe than outsiders were expecting even as late as Monday.

But in the City last night, analysts said that even on the new terms, the Rover purchase would bring considerable benefits to BAE.

In the Commons, Mr Clarke made plain his irritation with

the company, saying that there were no problems between the British Government and the European Commission, and that until lunchtime he had been given no indication that there were any with British Aerospace either.

So sudden and unexpected was the pullback by the company that Lord Young had been counting the Government's battle honours on the deal at a Downing Street lunch for the Turkish president only minutes before the alarm call came through.

The deal agreed with Mr Peter Sutherland, the European Commissioner responsible, had been rubber-stamped yesterday morning by the full Commission.

It reduced the Government's cash injection but Mr Clarke told MPs that the purchase price would remain at £150 million and "there would have been important relaxations in the tax conditions."

Mr Clarke told MPs: "Until lunchtime today it appeared that British Aerospace were prepared to accept these terms. However, at the last minute, they have asked for more time to consider the implications of other conditions attached to the Commission decision."

Discussions between British Aerospace and the Government would continue and he would report back to the Commons as soon as possible.

What neither Mr Clarke nor the company would reveal last night was precisely what were the sticking points which had led British Aerospace to ask for more time, causing the Government such marked political embarrassment.

Responding to questions, Mr Clarke said that no time limit was being imposed on BAE, but he agreed with Labour questioners that it would be very worrying if the uncertainty continued and that it could hit Rover sales in the crucial car-buying month of August.

Mr Gould said that the news represented "an embarrassing confession that the Government has got itself into an unholy mess, a mess which remains unresolved even at the cost of a humiliating rebuff of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State and at the



Keeping the door open: Lord Young leaving a London hotel for the House of Lords yesterday

US 'warned Athens' to expect terrorist attack

By Mario Modiano in Athens and Nicholas Beeston in London

Washington warned Athens more than a month ago that its reluctance to extradite to the United States a suspected Palestinian terrorist, Mohammed Rashid, would expose it to the risk of a guerrilla attack, a diplomatic source said yesterday.

A spokesman for the Greek Government refused to comment, but said: "Greece co-operates with all countries on the exchange of information about terrorism."

Greek and Western counter-terrorism agents are now working on the assumption that the original aim of the guerrillas who on Monday stormed the cruise ship City of

explosives - parked where the ship would have docked in Phaleron Bay - or because one of the terrorists, who drew the other passengers' attention to himself because he was so agitated, lost his nerve.

Rashid, aged 35, whose real name is Mohammed Haddam, was taken to the Athens law courts yesterday under strong police escort to be tried on a lesser charge of entering this country on a false Syrian passport. He was arrested after the US Embassy in Athens tipped off the Greeks.

Despite the attack, the US remained committed yesterday to press ahead with

of explosives - parked where the ship would have docked in Phaleron Bay - or because one of the terrorists, who drew the other passengers' attention to himself because he was so agitated, lost his nerve.

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Rhine army on alert after IRA bombing

From John England, Duisburg

British bases in West Germany were again on full alert after two IRA bombs blew a gaping hole in the wall of the British Army's Glamorgan Barracks here yesterday. Nine soldiers were slightly hurt in the bombing, which came 10 weeks after three RAF men were killed by IRA terrorists in Holland.

Servicemen and their families were warned to be on their guard in case the IRA tried to strike again. Throughout the day, the British Forces Broadcasting Service carried the message "stay alert, stay alive".

A hole 9ft by 15ft was torn in the wall of a two-storey building by the two bombs which exploded shortly after 3am while about 70 single soldiers were sleeping there. But only nine were slightly hurt by flying glass.

"They did not even need hospital treatment," a British Army of the Rhine spokesman said. "They were very lucky."

The injured men are serving with 35 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, which is part of the 3rd Armoured Division's transport regiment. The IRA admitted it carried out the bombing in a brief statement issued from Dublin.

The bombers got into the base, which lies on main public roads in a suburb of Duisburg, and is not classified as a "high security area", by cutting a hole in a wire fence only about 2ft from the sleeping quarters.

The blasts also brought down part of the barracks roof and damaged buildings on an industrial estate near by.

Shortly before the explosions, a lone policeman in a patrol car chased a gold-

coloured BMW 3-series car that drove through a red light not far from the barracks. But he gave up the pursuit after about three miles when an occupant of the car fired on him with a sub-machine gun.

He said he believed the car had Dutch registration plates, and at least two people were in it. The shots went wide of the police car and hit houses at a height that led police to believe that the firing was meant only to warn them off.

In Karlsruhe, Herr Alexander Prechtel, the spokesman for the Federal Public Prosecutor's office, said that the policeman heard the explosion as he was just starting to

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pursue the car when it went through the red light, about 200 yards from the barracks.

Herr Prechtel added that ballistic tests of about 10 bullets recovered from the scene indicated they could have been fired from an AK47 assault gun.

Herr Hans Engelhardt, the West German Justice Minister, described the bombing as a "cowardly and malicious" attack.

West German anti-terrorist units from the Federal Criminal Bureau in Wiesbaden yesterday joined British military and German police in the hunt for the bombers.

At the barracks, Major Colin Bulleid, an army spokesman, said: "Despite the bombs, it's business as usual for us. But of course we are keeping our eyes well open."

He would give no details of extra security measures but said: "They are tight."

Greece air delays of up to 31 hours

By David Nicholson-Lord and Boris Johnson

Holidaymakers flying to Greece faced long delays, disruption and packed airport lounges yesterday despite the end of protest action by Greek air traffic controllers.

Delays of up to 31 hours were reported at British airports, with some passengers accommodated at hotels but others forced to spend the night in terminal lounges. Many complained bitterly of their treatment by tour operators.

The 450 Greek controllers announced yesterday that they had reached agreement with their transport ministry and would be ending their two-day hunger and sleep protest. Flights were expected to begin returning to normal last night.

But there was a new threat on the horizon for tourists flying to Spain, where ground staff with Iberia, who handle all flights at Spanish airports, have threatened to go on strike next week.

At Gatwick airport an estimated 3,000 passengers spent Tuesday night in the south terminal while 600 camped in the north terminal. At one stage a 30-minute queue for coffee was reported.

It looked certain last night that similar numbers would be stranded again. Spokesmen predicted that "things would get worse before they get better."

The British Airports Authority drafted an extra 300

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SEVE'S OPEN



The Open Championship: Severiano Ballesteros's hole-by-hole guide to Lytham. Page 46

WIN £118,000

Two people shared the daily prize yesterday (see page 3) so the Portfolio Accumulator remains unchanged at £118,000. Prices: page 29

First atom power plant to be closed

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Plans to close and dismantle the world's first commercial nuclear power station, at Berkeley, Gloucestershire, were announced yesterday by the Central Electricity Generating Board.

It will be the world's first decommissioning of a commercial nuclear power station. The CEBG said that about half of the 532 staff would continue working on-site for some five years.

Berkeley began operating in 1962 and is one of the nine first-generation nuclear power stations in Britain based on the Magnox type of reactor.

It was subjected recently to a long-term safety review by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, together with a Magnox station of the same age at Bradwell in Essex.

Safety improvements were requested at both stations, but the board said that in the case of Berkeley these would have added to already high operating costs: hence the closure.

Lord Marshall, chairman of the CEBG, said: "Berkeley is going three years earlier than we had been planning, but it has also run six years longer than first anticipated."

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Reform of legal profession Bar at odds with solicitors

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The legal profession was split last night over a radical proposal to give solicitors extended rights of audience in all cases in the Crown Court.

The recommendation, made as part of a far-reaching strategy to prepare the profession for the 21st century, is a blow to barristers who argue against the change.

With very limited exceptions, Crown Courts, like those higher up the scale, are the exclusive preserve of the Bar. Fears among barristers are now heightened that this could undermine the position of the Bar, while solicitors advance to take over its traditional territory.

The proposal comes from a majority of the Committee on the Future of the Legal Profession, set up by the Bar Council and Law Society, which reported yesterday. To appear under the new arrangement, solicitors would have to be licensed by the Law Society

and approved by a Rights of Audience Advisory Board.

But the Law Society, which has lost its conveyancing monopoly, welcomed the Committee's views on rights of audience. Lady Murre, the Committee's chairman, told a press conference: "I believe that, when the Bar has recovered from its fright and has had a chance to look at this,

is looking at restrictive practices in the professions. A spokesman said yesterday: "We shall be studying the report with interest."

The recommendation will now go to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern.

Barristers on the Committee dissented from the recommendation.

Mr David Ward, the Law Society's deputy vice president, said: "It was perhaps predictable that the solicitor members should support an end to this artificial limitation on a client's right to choose his lawyer and also that the barrister members should resist such a change."

"What is significant is that six out of seven of the independent non-lawyer members have concluded that in the light of modern approaches to competition and restrictive practices, change is now necessary."

Kinnock discovers Africa's economic paradox

From Philip Webster
Gaborone

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday came face to face with the eternal paradox of southern Africa.

Five miles from the South African border, the closest he has come to the republic during his tour, Mr Kinnock and his wife, Glenys, clambered on board the engine of a Botswana train bringing fish, petrol, wood, fruit and other produce from South Africa into the frontier states.

These are goods which, of course, the Kinnocks and many other people would have nothing to do with in Britain. Mr Kinnock has used his tour to step up the pressure on Western governments to impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions against

South Africa. But here the economic dependence of Botswana and its neighbours on South Africa was graphically underlined.

Mr Kinnock wants sanctions to help the frontline states. But Botswana, the economic success story of black Africa, could never afford them itself. A third of Botswana's produce is sold in South Africa and 81 per cent of its imports come from there. Ninety-five per cent of its exports have to go through South Africa, most of them on the Bulawayo to Cape Town rail line, which Mr Kinnock saw yesterday.

The Labour leader, who has always maintained that it is for the West rather than poorer nations to apply the economic pressure to end apart-

heid, said that for Botswana to do so would be suicide. But although his trip to the Rakwana siding on the border with the South African homeland of Bophuthatswana showed him the vice-like grip which South Africa exerts over its neighbours, it gave him an illustration of the efforts that Botswana is making to escape from its trap.

Botswana last year spent about a million pula (about £350,000) to build the siding in a move to resist South African pressure to recognize the homeland. Early in 1987 Botswana was told that all its nationals, including train crews, would need visas to pass through the territory on their way to South African ports. The South African and Botswana crews

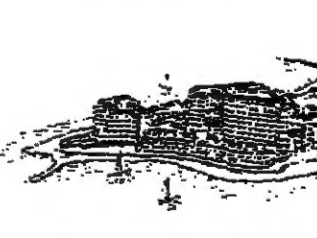
used to change over at Mafeking, in Bophuthatswana.

The Government built the new siding in Botswana to enable its drivers to swap places with the South Africans without crossing the border into the homeland. The visa demand has since been dropped, but the threat to the vital trade route remains.

Botswana, with its wealth of diamonds and beef, is trying to reduce its dependence on South Africa in other areas. In 1976 it replaced the rand, which it had shared with South Africa, with its own currency. To Pretoria's chagrin, the pula is now significantly stronger than the rand. Botswana's average income per head is second only to South Africa's on the continent.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

No publication of Burnage report

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, last night refused to publish the Macdonald report into the murder of an Asian boy two years ago at Burnage High School, Manchester, saying that the inquiry procedures were unfair. The inquiry, by Mr Ian Macdonald, QC, a London barrister, into the murder of Ahmed Ullah in September 1986, was highly critical of Dr Gerry Gough, the head teacher and his two deputies, in the way they managed the school and administered its racial policy.

Mr Baker told the Commons education select committee that it would not be fair to witnesses interviewed by the inquiry team, including senior teachers, to publish accusations they had no chance to answer.

Manchester City Council had refused to publish the complete report after legal advice that the council might be sued for libel.

Mr Macdonald last night refused to comment on Mr Baker's criticisms until he had considered them fully.

Jail for drugs dealer

A European drugs dealer who conspired to smuggle cannabis into Britain and supply it by the ton was jailed at Winchester Crown Court yesterday for 14 years — the maximum sentence allowed. Judge Tucker described Horst Reimer Isemann, aged 53, a German living on the Spanish Costa del Sol, as a cunning, manipulative, highly educated, unscrupulous man who had told a pack of lies during his trial. He also ordered Isemann to pay £396,385.99. Failure to pay that amount within two years will result in another five-year prison term.

York baby decision

The Duchess of York intends to leave her baby behind when she and the Duke of York make an official visit to Australia in September as part of Australia's bicentennial celebrations. The baby, expected during the second week in August, will remain with Miss Alison Wardley, aged 20, at Castlewood House, the Duke and Duchess's temporary home in Surrey.

Beach order defied

Southend Borough Council in Essex yesterday refused to shut down its beach, despite claims that it is like a cesspool. The refusal brought council chiefs into direct conflict with Essex County Council, which is calling for the public to be banned from the beach. Now the Government may have to act to end the stalemate. County council health chiefs say pollution from sewage in the Southend area is more than 100 times above the normal "safe" limit.

Salary rise of £74,000

The chairman of British Gas, Sir Denis Rooke, received a pay rise of £74,228 last year, the company's annual report showed yesterday. The 68 per cent boost, which took his salary to £183,674, was the latest in a series of massive pay rises for the heads of nationalized industries which have been privatized. Mr Iain Vallance, chief executive of British Telecom, had a 47 per cent increase in salary from £153,000 to £226,000 last month. Lord King, the chairman of British Airways, had a pay rise from £52,000 to £178,000.

New governor named

A former British ambassador to Somalia, Mr William Fullerton, aged 49, is to be the next Governor of the Falkland Islands, succeeding Mr Gordon Jewkes. The appointment means he will also be High Commissioner, British and Arctic Territory, and Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. Born in Wolverhampton, and educated at Cambridge University, he worked for Shell International before joining the Foreign Office 20 years ago. He has since served in Saudi Arabia, Jamaica, Turkey and at the United Nations in New York.

Photographs justified

The Press Council has ruled that several national newspapers were not wrong to publish pictures of two British soldiers who were killed during an IRA funeral in Belfast. The council held an inquiry following more than 30 specific complaints about *The Guardian*, *Daily Express*, *Daily Mail*, *The Independent*, *The Sun*, *The Star*, *Today*, *Mail On Sunday*, *Sunday magazine* (News of the World), the *Sunday Telegraph*, and the *Sunday Mail* (Glasgow). It said publication served an important social purpose in the public interest, outweighing any offence caused.

Polling today in Kensington by-election

Tebbit joins search for elusive voters

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

Mr Norman Tebbit, the former Conservative Party chairman, yesterday took his place on the by-election battlefield of Kensington where the job of finding voters in the most cosmopolitan borough in London proved as difficult as the job of evaluating the standing of the candidates.

Mr Tebbit, walking the length of Kensington High Street in search of Conservative supporters greeted every pedestrian with the plaintive cry, "Are you a voter here?"

The difficulty in canvassing the electorate there and the absence of any published opinion poll have combined to ensure a lacklustre campaign and nervousness about the result of the "entryphone election".

All four main parties are agreed that they have little idea of how the votes will split when the ballot boxes are opened tonight and all have encountered problems caused by a highly mobile electorate comprising large numbers of students, recent immigrants and foreign visitors, many of whom are not on the electoral register.

As many as one fifth of the electorate of 46,000 moved address last year and thousands more in the wealthy southern part of the west London constituency escaped the politician's blandishments by remaining firmly behind



Mr Norman Tebbit canvassing in Kensington High Street yesterday on the eve of polling. (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

the locked entrances to flats and homes guarded by vigilant porters or entryphones.

In the final hours of campaigning, Mr Tebbit was joined by Mr Michael Heseltine, his fellow former member of a Thatcher cabinet, as the Conservatives sought to counter complacency among their traditional supporters in the leafy southern heartlands.

However, the Conservatives, in spite of expressions of nervousness about the result, expect their candidate, Dudley Fishburn, aged 42, a former managing editor of *The Economist*, to succeed Sir Brandon Rhys Williams. The party's 4,447 majority is expected to be cut but a victory will be further confirmation of the Government's dominant

position 13 months after the general election.

Mr Fishburn has run a low key campaign emphasizing the Government's economic record, aided by the Conservatives' lead in the national opinion polls, division within Labour's ranks and continued warfare between the former colleagues in the Alliance, the Social and Liberal Democrats

and the Social Democrats.

While Labour's campaign has emphasized poverty, the poll tax, housing, health, education and crime, its candidate, Mrs Ann Holmes, has been undermined by renewed controversy over defence and the perception that the party remains at odds with itself. "A good candidate pulled down by the party", was one Labour

worker's sombre assessment.

Mrs Holmes, aged 41, a housing consultant, has invested much time in solidifying Labour's vote in the poorer northern part of the constituency and claiming that Conservatives worried by the effects of Thatcherism and the type of society it has created would switch to her as a worthy successor to Sir Brandon, a "wet" Conservative of the "one nation" tradition.

The SLD and SDP candidates have also been trying Sir Brandon's mantle for size but with little hope of inheriting it. The sniping and venom they have reserved for each other indicates how important the contest is to their prospects for taking over the centre ground in British politics. Gone is the heady atmosphere that infected previous SDP and Liberal by-election efforts to be replaced by a mood of dogged determination and the fear that the bitter split may have doomed prospects for a breakthrough.

For Mr William Goodhart, the SLD candidate, it is crucial to beat the SDP as anything less would be a humiliation.

Dr Owen's SDP has already hailed the campaign of its candidate, Mr John Martin, a success.

General election 1987: Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (C) 14,818; Ben Bousquet (Lab) 10,371; William Goodhart (SDP) 5,379; R F Shorter (Green) 528; L Carrick (Humanist) 65; M Hughes (Inde) 30. Majority 4,447. Electorate 48,212.

The Piper Alpha tragedy: safety protests grow; first funeral

Oil unions threaten indefinite strike

By David Sapped
and Tim Jones

Union leaders representing 20,000 North Sea oil workers will today consider calling an indefinite strike in protest against the Government's refusal to let them have copies of the report into the explosion on Piper Alpha four years ago.

Last night the Department of Energy confirmed that the report would not be released until it is given to Lord Cullen, who is to head the inquiry into the disaster and that it would be up to him to decide whether the contents of the

report would be made public.

The decision was described as "outrageous" by Mr Roger Lyons, deputy general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, which has retained a QC to represent its members and relatives of the victims at the inquiry.

Mr Lyons said: "It is a scandal that this report which may contain recommendations which could save lives is being kept from us. We need the report so that our civil engineers can prepare their evidence for the inquiry." In

the explosion on the rig four years ago, four men were slightly injured and 175 were airlifted to safety.

In Aberdeen yesterday, Mr Tom Laffery, divisional organizer for the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said the workers should shut down the North Sea operation "to force the companies to face up to a situation so tragically illustrated last week".

On Monday, the MSF plans to hold an international press conference at which Mr Lars Myrhe, president of the Norwegian oil unions and a

former Norwegian government inspector on the rigs, will say that, compared to the safety conditions his men enjoy, "British workers are in the dark ages".

Yesterday some of the men who resigned their jobs in the West Sole gasfield agreed to return to work after being given guarantees on safety. The decision, by about half of the 15 men, came at a meeting in Hull after union officials recommended acceptance of a package of proposals covering safety measures, union recognition and other matters.

Surgeon calls for UK disaster team

By Ruth Gledhill and Jill Sherman

The Piper Alpha tragedy highlights the need for a national team of surgeons who could be called on at short notice, Mr Colin Rayner, consultant plastic surgeon at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, said yesterday.

The hospital would have been "very hard-pressed indeed" if he had not been by chance to a burns conference in Leicester and able to call immediately on five plastic surgeons who travelled to Aberdeen to help.

Mr Rayner said that he would like to see a national pool of plastic surgeons and other specialists in the event of future disasters as "part of disaster planning".

Of the 11 patients still in hospital, nine are comfortable, one is in a stable condition and one is "serious but stable".

There was also a call yesterday for urgent central funding to set up training courses in disaster work for social

workers from Mr Derek Nuttall, director of the bereavement organization Cruse.

Mr Nuttall was speaking after the opening of an international conference on bereavement in London.

Mrs Janet Johnston, one of the key social workers in the Herald Assistance Unit, set up after the Zeebrugge disaster in March 1987, yesterday offered advice to the families of the 166 men who died.

"Take each day at a time, share your confusion with your families", she said.

One of the most difficult aspects about the oil rig explosion was that many of the bodies had still not been recovered.

She said it was important for families to realize that their feelings of fear, helplessness, sickness, guilt, shame, anger and loss of control were normal reactions to an abnormal situation.

'Brave harvesters who paid the ultimate price'

By Ruth Gledhill

A hilltop crematorium outside Aberdeen was the setting for the first funeral of the Piper Alpha disaster yesterday.

The small chapel was filled with more than 200 relatives and friends of Donald Reid, aged 44, a maintenance superintendent, one of the 166 who died.

Overcast skies and constant drizzle which fell throughout the moving, half-hour service instilled a further sense of sadness into the city awaiting news of 144

bodies still entombed in the wreck. The mourners were led by Mr Reid's wife, Linda, his children, Ian and Lesley, his grandson, Sean, and Mr William Carr, managing director of Wood Group Engineering, his employer.

The Rev Eliza Armstrong, of the Woodside Congregational Church, said: "Don and his workmates were indeed brave harvesters who paid the ultimate price demanded of so many who work on the seas. Whenever there is a harvest to

be gathered, a need for something in this world, there are men and women ready and willing to face the risks in harvesting in order that the needs of society may be met."

The funeral will take place today of Mr Malcolm Storey, aged 39, a rescue craft crew member who died in an explosion which killed a fellow crew member and six oil workers. A further nine funeral and memorial services will be held throughout the North and North-east.

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Dewsbury parents awarded costs as school dispute ends

By David Tyder, Education Editor

The parents who refused to send their children to a predominantly Asian school and instead set up their own classroom in a public house were yesterday awarded £7,000 costs after settling their year-long dispute with the council that refused them places in the schools of their choice.

At a meeting in Dewsbury on Tuesday evening the parents voted to accept the offer from Kirkstall Metropolitan Council finally to let their children attend Overthorpe and Thornhill schools and not Headfield Church of England School, where 85 per cent of the children are of Asian origin.

The parents' actions against the council, accusing it of acting unlawfully, were stopped suddenly on Tuesday when the council, which may face a total legal bill of up to £100,000, finally agreed that places could be found at the two schools, where most pupils are white.

The council said, in a statement read to the court then, that the parents had shifted their ground — away

from an allegation of racial manipulation of school admission limits to a claim that the authority failed to comply with its duty to publish admission arrangements.

Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC, for the parents, told the High Court in London that the parents were "deeply hurt" by suggestions that they were racially motivated, but added: "They wish to make it clear that the allegation of racial discrimination against the authority was and remained a very live issue in the proceedings and that there was no shift from such an allegation as suggested in the Kirkstall statement."

In agreeing the settlement, Lord Justice Gledhill said that because of the council offer, the court had not reached any conclusions one way or the other on the parents' claims that the council was trying to create a racial mix at Headfield and abolish Christian assembly.

He added: "It is our view that the parents have succeeded in what they set out to do. Justice requires that we order costs in their favour

against the council. It is the earnest hope of this court, and we confidently expect, that the children will now get on with their education free not merely of the stress of this litigation but of any tension that has arisen."

Mr Peter Allsop, a lorry driver from Ouzelwell Terrace, Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury, who was in court with his son Ian, aged eight, said: "Ian can now go to Overthorpe, where his brother and sister went. We just wanted the same for Ian. It's justice being done. All we wanted was parental choice."

The parents' solicitor, Mr Roger Peach, a campaigner for the pressure group Parental Alliance for Choice in Education said: "It's shown the tremendous value of parents fighting for their rights."

Mr Alan Evans, head of the education and equal opportunities department of the National Union of Teachers, said: "We deeply regret the whole sorry episode. Understandably, local NUT teachers are calling for a public inquiry."

Leading article, page 15

Hussey on satellite broadcasting

BBC2 switch spurned

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC, spoke out yesterday against the Government's proposals to transfer BBC2 to satellite and said that viewers would have to pay much more if the plan went ahead.

The plans have also been attacked by Sir Richard Attenborough, chairman of Channel 4, who said he viewed a similar idea to transmit Channel 4 by satellite with "enormous apprehension".

Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, announced last month that the Government was considering transferring the two channels to satellite to release ground-based frequencies for more commercial stations. Viewers would need a satellite dish to receive both BBC2 and Channel 4 if the scheme took place.

Mr Hussey, who was addressing parliamentary journalists at Westminster, said broadcasting, like newspapers, was about satisfying audiences and the means of transmission and printing were not the fundamental issues.

"I say that advisedly because I was rather surprised the other day when the proposal about BBC2 was made to us, to have it explained to me that because people were not convinced there was enough room for advertisers, I do not regard that as a very

sound reason for altering the means by which BBC2 is transmitted to the many millions of viewers who watch it." He said that only £10 of the £62.50 licence fee was spent in transmitting BBC2. "Any proposal to put it on satellite would cost a great deal more."

There was no subscription or pay-as-you-view system in the world which cost less than £150 a year.

Lord Young has indicated that the transfer to satellite would take place only if 50 per cent of viewers had the necessary receiving equipment, but Mr Hussey said yesterday that that would mean half the people could not see BBC2. "One of the great principles we must look to when we change the broadcasting system in this country and keep to, is that as many people as possible can get all the channels and pay as little as is possible for them."

The combined criticism from Mr Hussey and Sir Richard is likely to make the Government think twice before progressing with what is seen as a highly risky proposal. It has been suggested recently that ministers are already cooling towards the plan, having realized the practical obstacles.

Looking ahead to the broadcasting explosion which is about to take place, Mr Hussey predicted a big battle for viewers between British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB),

the £625 million venture scheduled to start broadcasting late next year, and Astra, which will carry Mr Rupert Murdoch's four Sky Television channels from early 1989. He estimated that by 1994 BSB and Astra would have 8 per cent of British viewers between them, yet their own figures showed they would not make a profit unless they both took 8 per cent of the market. "They are clearly going to fight very hard against each other," Mr Hussey said.

The BBC would, given the big changes in the broadcasting landscape, want to see how the new services developed, and he suggested that 1994 would be the right time to re-examine the position of the BBC in the market "when we see what the market actually is".

Mr Hussey also said that extra channels and more competition would not necessarily lead to lower advertising costs. It may lead to lower advertising rates.

● The BBC has appointed Mr Michael Jackson, aged 30, as editor of a new nightly arts review programme to be launched on BBC2 in the New Year. He joined the BBC's music and arts department last year after editing Channel 4's *The Media Show*.

Mr Clive James is to host a new Friday night discussion forum scheduled to start in the autumn.

Rosy outlook for cable TV

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Britain's fledgling cable TV network looks set for an unprecedented boom with investors from the United States wanting to put up to £500 million into the industry.

The glowing prospects for cable TV, which has been very slow in getting started in Britain, were highlighted yesterday in the annual reports of the Cable Authority and by upbeat remarks made by Mr Jon Davey, the authority's director-general.

"Extremely large sums of money — between £250 million and £500 million — are in prospect at the moment from North America, but there are still a lot of people who are hesitant because of the foreign control restrictions. If they were removed it would make life a lot easier for them and

for us", Mr Davey said.

Existing legislation prevents overseas investors having control of British-based cable ventures, but Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Home Office, who is responsible for broadcasting, hinted strongly in May that the Government was considering the case for relaxing those restrictions.

North American investors are anxious to support the British cable industry because in both the United States and Canada the industry has reached saturation point. Cable franchises are exchanging hands for up to \$2,500 per subscriber.

Mr Richard Burton, chairman of the Cable Authority, said in the foreword to yesterday's annual report that the prospect for securing the in-

stallation of cable in a major way were stronger than ever. "Most of the current interest is based on North American investment. It comes from groups who know and understand cable better than do investors in the United Kingdom, who are still slow to recognize and seize the opportunities."

The present restrictions on foreign control of cable operations were an inhibition on North American investment and were "unnecessary and anomalous". Their removal was as important as ever, he said. Twenty-three franchises have been awarded in Britain since 1983, only 10 of which are operating. Just under 45,000 homes are connected. That compares with 22,000 a year ago. The average subscription is £17.86p a month.

House price boom 'may be ending'

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

House prices, particularly in London and the South-east, could stabilize or even fall in real terms because first-time buyers are finding it increasingly difficult to afford to step onto the housing ladder, the First Time Home Buyers' Advisory Service said yesterday.

Although prices at the top of the market continue to astonish the estate agents who are selling them — with five houses in Kensington, west London, each bought for more than £1 million in recent weeks — there are signs that the boom could soon end.

Ms Jane Tait, head of the advisory service, said the expected rise in mortgage interest rates of about 1 per cent and the ending on August 1 of multiple mortgage tax relief

"could be the factors which tip the scales". The former will add about £30 a month to the cost of a £50,000 mortgage, the latter will affect first-time buyers who have been climbing together to buy.

Speculating whether the house price bubble was about to burst, she said there had been a 50 per cent drop in inquiries to her office, since it is becoming too late to buy by August 1. However, the big building societies, including the Halifax and Nationwide Anglia, expect prices to continue to rise, albeit at a lower rate than the 25 per cent in London and the South-east last year.

● A mystery landowner, angry because his own son could not afford to buy a house in Norfolk, has set up a plan to

give 400 young couples the chance to buy cut-price homes.

Secret discussions are under way with the landowner, who is prepared to sell a 28-acre site near North Walsham, Norfolk, for £10,000 a plot, compared with a market rate of between £25,000 and £30,000 a plot.

● A Conservative MP yesterday claimed the broad support of 170 colleagues for a plan to bring more than 200,000 acres of derelict, publicly-owned urban land back into productive use.

Mr Anthony Steen, MP for South Hams in Devon, said his plan could mean that no new green field sites would have to be built on for housing in the congested South-east and it would curtail spiralling house prices.

Gulliver ends his travels in Dublin



A 70ft model of Jonathan Swift's Gulliver rests on Dollymount Strand in Dublin before being ceremonially hauled ashore yesterday by members of the Galway-based theatre group Macnas. The model, made of glass fibre, aluminium and plywood, will be the focus of several festival events this week and will lead a theatrical parade down the Irish capital's O'Connell Street on Saturday. The figure took four months to build and was moved to Dublin on Sunday.

Four guilty in child sex ring

Police and social workers learnt from mistakes in Cleveland when they launched a joint operation to investigate a suspected child sex abuse ring operated by parents in a Cheshire town, it was disclosed yesterday.

"Operation Dual Control" was launched after a child told social workers of incidents on a council estate at Congleton, Chester Crown Court was told.

Nineteen people were arrested and 17 children were taken into care after 95 police officers and 50 social workers were assigned to the month-long inquiry.

The children, all aged under 12, were examined for one hour and a second medical opinion was given immediately.

A woman police officer and a social worker were assigned to each case. Seven children were returned home within 24 hours and place of safety orders were obtained for the remainder only after a senior magistrate had spent several hours reviewing each case.

Mr Michael Sawyer, head of Congleton social services section, said the inquiry team had known from the outset of the impact it was likely to have after the Cleveland child sex abuse affair. To prevent a recurrence, only those children known to be at risk were subjected to place of safety orders.

Details of the operation were disclosed at the end of two trials yesterday. In the

first, a man aged 39 was found guilty of raping his daughter, aged five, and of an offence against his son, aged three.

Mr Maurice Kaye, QC, told Mr Justice Allott that the girl had been held down by her mother, aged 46, while she was raped by her father.

In the second trial, a man aged 43 was found guilty of indecently assaulting his daughter, aged five, and son, aged nine, and indecently assaulting the son, aged five, and stepson, aged seven, of his neighbour and co-defendant.

The neighbour, aged 48, was found guilty of offences against his stepson and attempted offences against his son. The defendants, who admitted aiding and abetting rape, will be sentenced in two weeks.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

Kwai survivor wins

Yesterday's daily Portfolio prize of £4,000 was shared between three winners.

Mr Gilbert Coltart, aged 83, from Lindfield, West Sussex, a retired solicitor said: "I am absolutely delighted, although I haven't yet decided how I will use the money. But it will help balance three years of hardship on the River Kwai."

Mr Coltart was held in the infamous prisoner of war camp following the Japanese invasion of Singapore in 1942. "I am only one of many," he said, "but the great thing was to survive. They were tough times and

the money will provide some recompense."

Mr Eddie Herring, a retired Civil Servant, aged 63, is in the process of moving house. He and his wife leave their home of 15 years at New Ash Green, Kent, tomorrow.

He said: "Both our daughters live in Essex and we will be moving near them. There will be lots of things that we wish to buy for our new house."

Mr David Safin, aged 37, a sound recording engineer from Palmers Green, north London, will use the money for house renovations.



But thanks to the Data Protection Act the blindfolds are off.

Now you have the legal right to see personal information being held about you on computer by government, public bodies, commercial and other organisations. As well as the right to challenge the facts if they are wrong.

If you are denied information you should take the matter up with the Registrar, who has the power to compel people who store personal information to comply with the Act.

To exercise your rights, know them.

Call into your local library or Citizens Advice Bureau and ask for our leaflet, or use the coupon to obtain one. Now no one should be left in the dark.

To: The Data Protection Registrar, P.O. Box 30, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AE Please send me more information.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

The Data Protection Act

MARRE REPORT ON FUTURE OF LEGAL PROFESSION

Solicitors win their case for crown court rights

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs
Correspondent

Solicitors should be eligible for appointment as High Court judges, the Marre Committee says in its report. A majority on the committee adds that approved solicitors should have extended rights of audience for all cases in the crown court.

Each circuit would have an advisory board to recommend which solicitors reach the right standard for audience in the crown court. The board should inform the Law Society who should be licensed to appear and should have the right to notify if which licenses should be withdrawn.

A right of audience entitles a person to address a court of law or tribunal on his own behalf or on behalf of another, other than as a witness. A barrister in private practice has a right of audience before all courts, a solicitor's rights of audience are more limited.

The Law Society, on behalf of solicitors, argues for increased rights of audience, whereas the General Council of the Bar, on

behalf of barristers, believes that no change should be made in the present arrangements.

The report says that after weighing the views of the Law Society and the Bar Council and bearing in mind the attitude of the Government to competition and restrictive practices, the majority on the committee concluded there should be some extension of solicitors' rights of audience in the crown court and it would be in the public interest to extend them to all cases.

The view of the majority was that the time had come for the equivalent of a licensing system for solicitors doing advocacy work in the crown court.

They suggest that a rights of audience advisory board might consist of the presiding judge, the circuit judge from the county court, two other judges, two barristers, two solicitors, a legally qualified magistrate's clerk and a stipendiary magistrate.

The report says: "The majority of us believe that this requirement to demonstrate competence should remove any reservations which might be felt by the judges

THE REPORT'S MAIN POINTS

- Solicitors should be eligible for appointment as High Court judges, and have audience rights for all crown court cases.
- The dissenters: why solicitors should not have new rights of audience in Crown Court.
- Disturbing deficiencies in the standard of some law students.
- The conveyancing market: concern over financial institutions' possible moves.
- Legal profession may not provide uneconomic services.
- Big law firms get bigger and London's fees are biggest.

to the extension of solicitors' rights of audience in the crown court."

Two of the solicitor members, however, felt that such an advisory board would introduce another level of restriction on what was otherwise proposed as a liberalization of the current restrictive practice and were, therefore, not able to support the view of the majority on that point.

The committee did consider whether to recommend similar tests of competence for barristers but decided it would not be appropriate.

Barristers are trained and tested as advocates during their education and pupillage and their

performance is monitored by the solicitors who instruct them.

The committee urges judges to take a "close and active" interest in the competence of all advocates appearing in the courts and to report any individual acts of incompetence to the appropriate professional body, or rights of audience advisory board. Action should then be taken by the Bar Council or the Law Society in appropriate cases.

The committee recommends that members of specialist professions other than solicitors should be allowed direct access to counsel. The present rule means that normally a practising barrister must not meet or advise a

client except through the introduction, and in the presence, of a solicitor.

The Bar Council is considering whether professional clients who are not solicitors should be able to instruct counsel direct. The Law Society agrees, but goes even further and says that any member of the public should be entitled to have direct access to counsel if safeguards are introduced.

The committee recommends that where counsel is instructed by a professional client, other than a solicitor, he should be entitled to negotiate fees for work done direct with the professional client.

The Bar Council and the Law Society should explore the practicalities of promoting an amendment of the law to enable barristers to enter into contractual relationships with solicitors and/or lay clients and sue for non-payment of fees.

Employed barristers who have completed their pupillages should have the same rights of audience in the magistrates' court and the county court as are enjoyed by employed solicitors.

Employed barristers should have direct access on behalf of their employers to practising barristers. Rights of audience in the crown court should not, at present, be extended to lawyers employed by the Crown Prosecution Service.

A barrister employed at a law centre should, where the centre is organized on appropriate lines, be able to work there whether a solicitor is employed there or not; such a barrister should have direct access to counsel and be able to appear in court for clients of the law centre.

Employed barristers and solicitors, other than those with the Crown Prosecution Service, who have been licensed by the rights of audience advisory board, should be able to appear if their employers face prosecution in the crown court.

There should be no change in the present rule, which gives an advocate - barrister or solicitor - immunity from an action for negligence in respect of the conduct and management of a case in court.

The practice of many sets of chambers in negotiating new contracts with their clerks on the basis of a salary with an incentive to reward effort and efficiency should be adopted by all sets of chambers.

"Although many barristers' clerks give dedicated service to their chambers, the dominant role which some clerks can play in the management of work within chambers does not, or may not, allow barristers to make the best use of their qualifications, expertise and resources, nor may it promote the efficient conduct of business between barristers and solicitors."

As far as the committee is aware, the system of barristers' clerks does not exist in any other country. In particular, there is no requirement for a barrister's clerk in Scotland or Northern Ireland. "We question therefore whether it should be compulsory for a barrister in England and Wales to employ a clerk if his or her practice can be otherwise efficiently organized."

Leading article, page 14

LEGAL AID

Stiffer action call to make big-time criminals pay toward defence costs

Tougher action to prevent criminals with enough money from avoiding payment towards the cost of their defence is proposed by the committee.

The truthfulness of legal aid applications should be monitored more rigorously to ensure that those convicted criminals who can afford it should contribute towards the cost of their defences, the report says.

"Power should be given to the sentencing court to order substantial contributions where it appears that a full statement in respect of means has not been made on application."

The report says that the means test in criminal cases is relatively simple and allows the courts to make most decisions on legal aid applications within a week.

"Rather to the surprise of some of us, the majority of criminal defendants come within the 'free' limit and contributions are ordered in less than 3 per cent of cases."

The committee trusts that the new Legal Aid Board will be able to act so that satisfactory legal services will be provided to people of poor or moderate means.

A departmental select committee of the House of Commons should be given the job of monitoring the future administration of the legal aid system and the provision of public funding for legal services, reporting annually to Parliament.

The freedom of choice of legally aided clients should not be restricted. Clients should be able to choose whether to consult a solicitor or an advice agency. Assistance by way of representation by either a solicitor or a representative of an advice agency should be available before all tribunals.

Legal aid should be available for petitioners to the Court of Justice of the European Community and to the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The Committee on the Future of the Legal Profession was appointed by the Bar Council and by the Law Society, to which it reports back. Membership consisted of six practising barristers, six practising solicitors and six independent members with an independent chairman, Lady Marre.

The independent members are: Lady Elizabeth Cavendish, Mrs Lisa Parkinson, Mr Maurice Stannard, Mr John Warne, Professor David Williams and Mr Michael Wolfe.

The barristers are: Lord Alexander, QC, Mr William Blackburne, QC, Miss Anna Gegganheim, Mr Igor Judge, QC, Mr Peter Leaver, QC and Mr Mark Potter, QC (until May 1988, now Mr Justice Potter).

The solicitors are: Mr John Ascott, Miss Gillian Babington-Brown, Sir Derek Bradbeer, Mr Richard Cusack, Mr Richard Harvey and Mr Anthony Holland.

Others who served during the two years since the committee was set up were: Mr Marcel Berlioz, Mr Martin Bowley, QC, Mr David Cocks, QC, and Sir Alan Leslie.

A Time for Change - Report of the Committee on the Future of the Legal Profession (General Council of the Bar, 11 South Square, Gray's Inn, London WC1 5EL, or the Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL; £9.50).

The duty solicitor scheme should be seen as a preparation for, rather than an alternative to, the granting of legal aid. Procedural changes should be made to ensure that duty solicitors are available to provide representation for defendants appearing for non-payment of rates or fines.

Remuneration in London and big city areas should reflect the increased costs of practice there.

The report says that as a result of the Legal Aid Bill there is a possibility that, in future advice on such matters as welfare benefits, housing and employment will be put out to competitive tender and advice centres may compete with solicitors for the work.

"We have concluded that the role of law centres and other

advice agencies should be expanded and supported, particularly by increased funding". The new Legal Aid Board should consider national funding for them to give legal advice and assistance.

Legal expenses insurance should be encouraged as a means of obtaining financial assistance for those members of the public who are not eligible for legal aid to enable them to seek justice.

There are now a number of companies in the legal expenses insurance market. The cost of individual policies is between £50 and £80 a year, depending on the cover offered.

The report says that policies should provide that the insured should always have a free choice of solicitor.

On contingency fees, the report says they should not be introduced now but should be further researched and discussed.

● The committee issues a warning that, in an increasingly competitive climate, the legal profession may become unwilling to provide uneconomic services.

"Governments which extol the virtues of a competition culture must not be surprised if those who provide skilled and complex services decline to do so as a charitable activity."

As pressures grow, professional people may become less willing to devote time to unremunerative activities, for example to badly paid legal aid or charitable work.

The report also concludes that, because lawyers have overriding duties to the rule of law, to their clients and to the court, commercial considerations cannot be paramount when considering the future supply of legal services.

The committee concludes that if the legal profession and the professions generally do not initiate appropriate change then it will be forced upon them.

TRAINING AND CONVEYANCING

Deficiency of standards in students 'disturbing'

Deficiencies in the standard of some law students are disturbing, the Marre Committee says.

There was clear evidence from both the College of Law and the Council of Legal Education that some students arriving at the vocational schools displayed:

- Lack of ability in oral expression;
- Gaps in comprehensive knowledge of the core subjects;
- Insufficient ability to present clear and concise written arguments; and
- Inability to undertake independent legal research.

The committee concluded that those responsible for teaching law at the universities should be made aware of the causes of concern and should make concerted efforts to meet the deficiencies.

Though only a minority of students were disadvantaged, the findings were disturbing. "We are also conscious that some of the inadequacies reported may result from deficiencies in the educational system at the primary or secondary school stage."

The Lord Chancellor's advisory committee on legal education should be replaced by a joint legal education council, which should function as a vigorous standing committee, providing regular reports to the profession.

Within the council, the profession should consider the possibility of a joint system of vocational training and how best to encourage lawyers to undergo continuing education.

The report says the method of entry to the profession should continue to be by law degree. There is no practical alternative to

pupillage for practical training at the Bar and the system of articles is the best method of providing practical training for solicitors.

Local education authority grants, for both tuition and maintenance, should be made available on a mandatory basis, for non-law graduates undertaking either the Bar's diploma course or the Law Society's common professional examination course.

Grants to non-law graduates are provided at the discretion of the local education authority. The committee received evidence that,

as far as students undertaking the Common Professional Examination at the College of Law, Lancaster Gate, in 1986/87 were concerned, only 32 per cent received any tuition grants and only 19 per cent got full tuition grants. None received full maintenance and tuition grants.

The picture was confirmed for CPE students around the country by the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Service, which indicates that only 15 per cent of local authorities award grants for the CPE course.

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Case for reforms: Lady Marre, introducing the report on the future of the legal profession yesterday, with Lord Alexander, QC, who added a dissenting note. She was a member of the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee on legal aid in 1975-80, and was chairman of the London Voluntary Service Council and the Volunteer Centre in the 1960s (Photograph: Dennis McNeelance).

BAR STATISTICS

Increase in barristers

The average increase in the number of barristers between 1978 and 1985 was 63 per cent.

In 1977, the number of women practising at the Bar was 336, or 8 per cent of the total. By 1987, the figure had increased to 572, 14 per cent of the total practising Bar.

The report refers to the increasing dominance of London and the South-east. In 1985-86 the gross fees (before expenses) earned by each solicitor in London were £73,000, in the north £48,000 and in the south £53,000.

Between 1984 and 1986 the

number of firms with more than 11 partners increased by 8 per cent and the number of principals in those firms increased by 12 per cent.

	1979	1987
Sets of Chambers		
London	197	227
Provinces	109	114
Total	306	341

	1984	1986
Practising Barristers		
London	2,894	3,977
Provinces	1,182	1,665
Total	4,076	5,642

SOLICITORS' REACTION

Reforms a challenge to profession

By Robert Johnson, QC, chairman of the Bar of England and Wales

The Marre report adds valuably to the work of the 1979 Royal Commission on Legal Services. Many of its recommendations ought to be enthusiastically adopted by the Government and the professions, especially on legal aid and education and training.

I particularly welcome the recommendation for mandatory grants for training for the Bar at the Council of Legal Education. The committee's view is that absence of mandatory grants means that lawyers do not come from as wide a social background as possible and that many able men and women are lost to the legal profession.

The committee has also recognized the damage to the health of the legal profession, including its ability to modernize and equip itself, if publicly funded fees are kept too low. In all these areas I welcome unreservedly the work done by Lady Marre and her committee.

The Bar supports the committee's endorsement of self-regulation which has two key virtues: first, the active involvement of practitioners who have first-hand experience of the issues; secondly,

the sense of commitment which arises from the responsibility for the implementation of professional standards which have developed voluntarily.

The committee found no evidence to suggest that the regulation of professional conduct by the state was likely to be more efficient than self-regulation and says: "At the end of the day, the independence and integrity of the individual barrister or solicitor, determined to place the interest of justice before expediency, is the citizen's best safeguard against tyranny whether by the state or by powerful private interest."

Like the Royal Commission, the committee concludes that there is no public benefit in fusing the two branches of the profession. It sees no contribution to a more effective, more accessible or cheaper service to the public by going down that road. The committee was invited to report back to the Bar Council and the Law Society with recommendations on how and by whom areas of possible change might be examined further. Accordingly, there are some issues on which it has sensibly decided to

express no conclusions.

There are other areas in which work is already being done. The difficult matter of contingency fees, which Marre recommends as a subject for further study and discussion, is being examined by a working group established by the Law Reform Committee of the Bar Council.

The Bar has moved a long way towards permitting direct access to counsel by other professions, which I am pleased to see the Marre report endorses. This should improve our service to the public. In these and other areas the Benson Royal Commission report, the Marre report and the recent Civil Justice Review together point the way for the future improvement of legal services in this country. It is up to the legal profession to meet the challenge of adapting as fast as it can to the rapid changes in our society.

The Marre recommendation to extend solicitors' rights of audience to all types of crown court case will result in exactly what the committee apparently wishes to avoid: the erosion of a healthy, independent Bar.

Era of expertise to replace monopoly

By Robin Smith, member, Council of the Law Society

The Marre committee report has as its title *A Time for Change*. That could not be more appropriate for the solicitors' profession in the late 1980s.

In the past 10 years competitive forces have shaped both the relations we have with our clients, the scale of our practices (mergers and amalgamations seem to take place on a weekly basis) and the future we see for ourselves.

We see that future lying in the provision of high-quality legal services both to individuals and to businesses, responding to customer demand, retaining high ethical standards and based on efficient and economical use of technology and of training personnel.

We no longer have an exclusive monopoly over one of our large areas of business: conveyancing. We have abandoned traditional restraints on advertising and have just liberalized our professional rules on work introduced by third parties. Subject to the necessary safeguards for the consumer by and large we prefer to stand on our expertise and on demand for our services rather than any professional monopoly.

It is significant that in our fastest growing sector of work - legal advice to commercial enterprises - there is no monopoly. As one of the best equipped professions in Europe we are looking forward to the opportunities that 1992 will offer, as well as to the service and support we can offer the UK and international business community.

Nor can we afford to stand still at home. Our greatest asset is our trained manpower and we are running short of supply. Over the next 10 years there will be intense competition for school leavers and graduates. We must make a career in the law intellectually fulfilling and reasonably rewarding financially.

To do that we welcome the review of the profession's training needs the committee has undertaken with its emphasis on client communication, the teaching of practical skills, continuing education and post-qualification specialization.

It is against this background that the committee was asked to redefine the boundaries of our work and that of barristers. The Law Society's attitude has

been that in these areas consumer preference should dictate the future market for legal services.

If it is cheaper and more efficient for solicitors to appear in the higher courts (and if the client so wishes) then this should be permitted. If, as the Bar has often pointed out, there are economies in specialist low overhead advocacy practices, then the work will naturally gravitate to them, whether they be solicitors or barristers.

The committee has suggested putting the licensing of solicitors for crown court work into the hands of local advisory boards composed of judges, magistrates and other lawyers.

It is not proposed that barristers should have to submit themselves to this advisory board before being allowed to practise in the crown court yet there are certainly some barristers who do not undertake, and probably never should undertake, crown court work. We shall want to consider this advisory board proposal carefully with the Lord Chancellor and with the representatives of the judges.

MPs criticize high costs and delays in Trident programme

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A leading Commons committee expressed "dismay and concern" yesterday at huge cost and time overruns in the construction of nuclear warhead production facilities for Trident.

The all-party public accounts committee said warhead production was "a major risk area" in the whole £9 billion Trident programme.

The MPs said they were also not convinced that the Ministry of Defence had solved serious specialist staff recruitment problems at the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment.

And they were sceptical of the ministry's claims that past problems would not mean Trident coming into service late.

Meeting the production deadlines now meant using existing as well as new facilities at Aldermaston. "There is clearly some risk of breakdown and we are concerned at the extent of reliance on the use of ageing facilities which need to be replaced," they said in a report.

The committee also rebuked ministers for allowing construction to start on new Trident facilities in 1982 before it was known exactly what was needed. They were

warned in writing of the risks involved, but went ahead to avoid delays to the overall programme.

In the event, design changes had to be made and the result was even greater delay and cost escalation.

The report says that the cost of 32 separate construction projects at Aldermaston, many critical to Trident, was originally estimated at £578 million but rose to between £836 million and £1.06 billion by 1986.

"We are dismayed and concerned at the lack of control of the size and cost of this programme", the committee said.

Noting that the use of existing as well as new warhead production facilities for Trident would mean an additional staff requirement of up to 200 people, the report refers to past specialist recruitment difficulties, says ministers should have addressed the problems earlier, and concludes: "We are not convinced that the staff recruitment problem [at Aldermaston] has been solved."

Elsewhere in the report, the committee expresses concern at the real cost increase of £360 million since 1981 in the £945 million Trident building

works programme for 100 projects at Faslane, Coulport and Rosyth. It is also disappointed that less than 50 per cent of Trident contracts in the UK have been issued on a competitive basis.

However, it says that in general, financial control and project management on the main Trident programme appear to be operating effectively.

The report criticizes the waste and serious delay caused by the cancellation of the original contract for central command and control systems for the new Type-23 frigates.

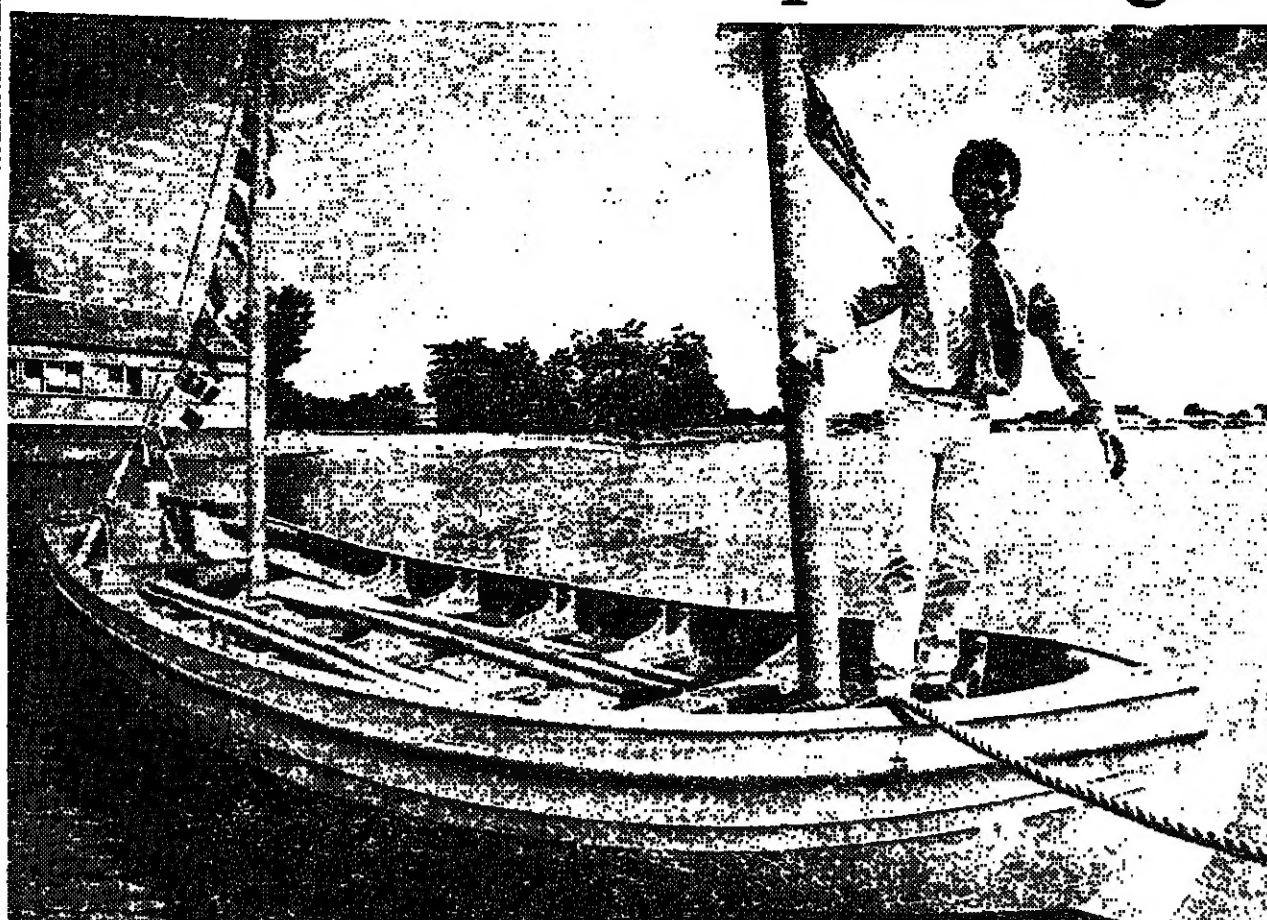
It also warns the ministry of the dangers of not giving warship builders a better idea of its likely forward programme.

The MoD, in order to avoid increasing costs, had to develop a long-term strategy reconciling the viability of the industry with its desire for competition.

The committee also reported the ministry's hope that Marconi's monopoly on torpedo-building in Britain might be challenged.

Public Accounts Committee: Naval Warship and Weapons Procurement (Stationery Office, £5.70).

In the wake of Captain Bligh



Jasper Shackleton on the Elizabeth Bligh yesterday after its launch at Gosport, Hampshire (Photograph: Graham Wood)

By Ronald Faux

Seven sailors are to attempt to repeat the 3,600 mile voyage across the Pacific made by Captain William Bligh after the mutiny on HMS Bounty in 1789, using a replica of the launch in which he was put adrift.

The voyage will begin next spring on the 200th anniversary of the mutiny, with Mr. Jasper Shackleton, aged 30, a furniture designer and sailing enthusiast

from Liss, Hampshire, taking the role of Bligh.

Selection of a crew, to include a doctor and navigator familiar with a sextant, will take place later this year. The cost of the project is estimated at £175,000 and will be funded by voluntary contributions.

The boat, which has been built at Gosport, Hampshire, and was launched yesterday, is named the Elizabeth Bligh after the captain's wife. It is 23ft long, 6ft

9in on the beam and lugger-rigged to sail down the bristly easterly trades that carried Bligh from Tofua in the Tongan Islands to Timor in Indonesia in 42 days.

Mr. Shackleton, who is chairman of the William Bligh Trust, said: "It will be a simple tribute to his voyage. We do not expect to starve or to be met by unfriendly natives as he did and was. There could be some quite dangerous moments."

City uses power of the rocks

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Southampton became the first city in Britain yesterday to use water from hot underground rocks as a source of alternative energy. Scalding water pumped from a depth of 5,000ft is fed into a district heating scheme supplying power to city-centre buildings.

Brine heated to 76°C is brought to the surface from an underground aquifer known as the Hampshire Basin, formed millions of years ago.

Harty libel

Jamie Wilson, a student, has received undisclosed damages and costs from the *News of the World* and the *Sunday Mirror* which falsely accused him of a homosexual relationship with the late television presenter Mr. Russell Harty. The High Court heard yesterday.

Animal award

London Zoo yesterday received an award from the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare for a dwarf mongoose exhibit which enables the animals to live a virtual normal life in conditions close to those of their desert environment.

Mr Marius Goring

At the actors' union Equity's council meeting on July 5, Mr. Marius Goring tabled a motion urging that the cultural boycott on South Africa be lifted.

Great Yorkshire Show

Famous Charolais reigns supreme

One of the Charolais breed's famous sires, Fleets Vibrant, which is jointly owned by the breed's immediate past president, Mrs. Patricia Ogden, of Carnforth, Lancashire, and Chamley Farm of Guildford, Surrey, won the Supreme Beef title at the Great Yorkshire Show at Harrogate yesterday.

Vibrant, bred in Yorkshire, took top breed honours at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh last week. It will be leaving shortly for the United States, having just been sold to Mr. Forrest Ingram, of Alabama, for an undisclosed five-figure sum.

The reserve supreme beef animal was the British Limousin Alnwick-Halcliffe Rembrandt, a senior bull owned by R. G. Oates of Alnwick, Northumberland.

The inter-breed beef team award was won by the Galloway breed which captured the prize for the first time in 15 years. The reserve was the British Limousin team.

The Inter-Breed Dairy Championship went to the British Friesian Champion cow-in-milk Holmdale Ruby 90, owned by Henry Bell and Son, Carnforth, Lancashire. The Holstein Champion Logie Brae Warden Joanne, owned by Alex Hodge Ltd., was reserve.

Although the show started its second day in torrential rain the midday attendance was down by less than 2 per cent.

£770,000 Fuseli sold for triple its estimate

A large painting by Johann Heinrich Fuseli, lost to scholars since the beginning of the century, sold for £770,000 at Sotheby's London yesterday, almost tripling its estimate.

So rarely does a Fuseli come to auction that Sotheby's was unable to discover any previous sales of the Swiss-born artist in its records at all.

Entitled "Satan Starting from the Touch of Ithuriel's Lance", the painting illustrates a scene from Milton's "Paradise Lost" with a devil surprised in the act of creeping up on a sleeping Adam and Eve.

Horace Walpole referred to it as "extravagant and ridiculous" but the artist was apparently undeterred and used the same composition for an even bigger picture (13ft x 12ft), which is now unraced.

In the same sale of British paintings, an important oil

SALEROOM

By Jenny Gilbert

sketch by Constable depicting one of the artist's favourite views - over Dedham Vale in Suffolk - went to the New York dealer Salander O'Reilly for £209,000 (estimate £100,000-£150,000).

The work was first sold by the artist's son, Lionel, in 1877 for 60 guineas and was auctioned in 1959 for 9,000 guineas.

A Samuel Scott (estimate £60,000-£80,000) fetched £165,000, paid by the London dealer Lane Fine Art, setting a record for the artist.

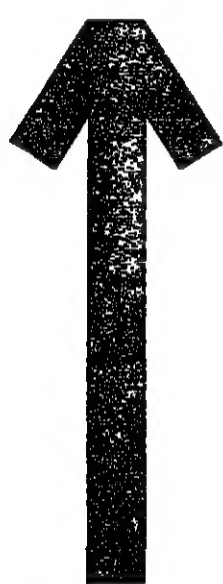
The detailed shipping scene features the Thames at Rotherhithe in the 1750s with St Paul's Cathedral and St Saviour's Dock, Bermondsey, in the distance.

Yesterday's bi-annual Golf Sale, held by Phillips in Chester, made a record total in a saleroom packed with enthusiasts.

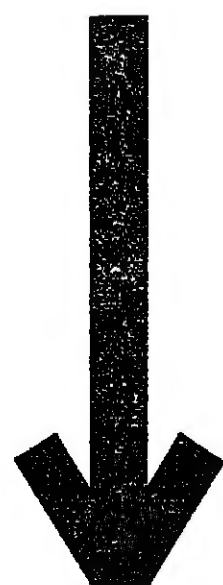
It was an American who paid the top price of £14,300 for a medal commemorating the winner of the 1887 Open Championship. Another item, a volume titled *The Historical Gossip About Golf and Golfers* (Edinburgh, 1863), went for £9,240 to a private buyer.

Early 19th-century golf balls - filled with tightly packed feathers and now rare owing to a tendency to explode on impact - fetched up to £2,700. Christie's sale of Decorative Arts from 1880 to the present day went patchily with over a third unsold. This was consistent with recent form, which suggests that dealers, particularly in the Art Deco and Arts and Crafts styles, are beginning to pull in their horns.

PRODUCTIVITY
UP 60%



British Coal has its ups and downs.



COSTS
DOWN 24%

BRITISH COAL'S RESULTS FOR 1987/8:

- An operating profit of £216 million (industry's main financial performance indicator) despite over £100m losses from industrial disputes and over £100m in added price concessions to customers.
- Loan interest charges of £368m - our equivalent of a "dividend" payment.
- Restructuring costs, to improve future competitiveness, of £388m.
- Total 'bottom line' loss of £540m after interest charges and restructuring costs.

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- Productivity at collieries up by 60% - plus another 16% forecast for this year.
- Workforce reduced by 104,000 to a total of under 117,000 - without any compulsory redundancy.
- Nearly the same coal output from less than half the number of coal faces.
- Operating costs at collieries down by 24% in real terms.
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Announcing the Corporation's results, British Coal Chairman Sir Robert Haslam said:

"British Coal's major restructuring is the most intensive carried out by any UK industry in recent times. Results for the first quarter of 1988/9 are on track to give us an operating profit of £500m for this year. This would meet the Government's objective of a 'bottom line' break-even for the year. British Coal are on the brink of success."

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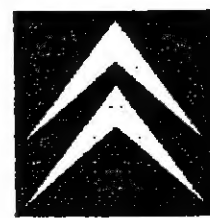
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Britain
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Britain to give lead with dismantling of nuclear power plant

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Britain is to become the first country in the world to dismantle a commercial nuclear power station with the start next year of a programme that should eventually see the country's first plants return to greenfield sites.

The task of decommissioning the Berkeley atomic power station in Gloucestershire will take more than 100 years to complete at a cost of more than £300 million. Similar work on Berkeley's eight sister stations will start within the next five years.

A disposal site has in the meantime to be found for the large volumes of waste containing intermediate levels of radioactivity, for after six years of searching for a place to build a nuclear waste dump, Nirex, the Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive, has failed to overcome fierce opposition from local communities.

New methods have yet to be

devised for the final removal and burial of huge internal structures at the heart of the reactor, but, while attempts are made in the decades ahead to overcome such problems, the building will be sealed and subjected to tight security until the second half of next century.

With privatization of the electricity supply industry imminent, questions also remain in regard to who will continue to pay for the decommissioning of successive generations of nuclear power stations and who has the responsibility for guarding them.

However, the dismantling of Berkeley starts the process of decommissioning the first generation of Magnox reactors, with which Britain pioneered the development of commercial nuclear power.

Most of them were built in the 1960s, following the use of the Calder Hall reactors at Windscale in Cumbria by the

Atomic Energy Authority for generating electricity in addition to producing plutonium for weapons.

Success in producing electricity from those early reactors led to the building of others for the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) and the South of Scotland Electricity Board in what was the first such commercial programme in the world.

The first two reactors, at Berkeley and Bradwell, Essex, were brought into operation in 1962 and had an expected life of 25 to 30 years. The dismantling of them will be done in three stages, according to a provisional timetable.

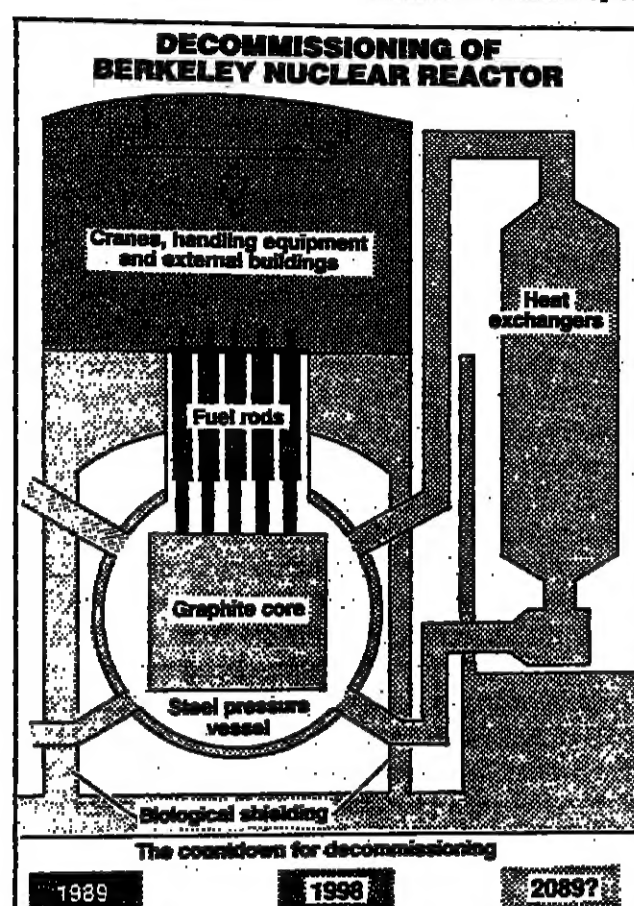
Five years will be needed to remove the 30,000 highly radioactive fuel rods which will be sent to Sellafield, Cumbria, for reprocessing. Initially, the rods are so radioactive that they have to cool underwater for 100 days on site at Berkeley before being moved by rail to Sellafield inside heavily shielded metal flasks.

Once all the fuel rods are out of the way, more than 99 per cent of the reactor's radioactive content will have been removed. However, exposure to the remaining 1 per cent would still be deadly.

The second stage of decommissioning 10 to 12 years after the generation of electricity has ceased will involve the removal of boilers, gas ducts, circulators and other plant around the reactor, and take about five to seven years.

The third stage involving the dismantling of the heart of the reactor will be delayed for at least 100 years. The pause will allow the radioactivity to decay naturally. Eventually the remaining biological shield, steel pressure vessel and graphite core will be disposed of deep underground.

The Sellafield nuclear reprocessing complex is likely to become a package holiday centre, it was announced yesterday, with the recently opened £5 million visitors' centre there becoming the main draw if the scheme goes ahead.



Whetting appetites for herring



Mr Colin Smith of the Radiant Star shows off his herring catch (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

A campaign to revive the British taste for the once cherished but now sadly forgotten herring was launched in London yesterday.

The 133-ft Scottish purse seiner, Radiant Star, sailed under Tower Bridge to berth next to HMS Belfast, where a reception was held with a special dish prepared by Wheeler's of St James's, the fish restaurant chain.

The campaign is in response to concern that, of the 100,000 tonnes of herring caught by British fishermen last year, more than 90 per cent had to be sold at knock-down prices to factory ships from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, West Africa and the Far East, because the home market was so small.

The herring is a victim of its own former popularity. After years of massive overfishing, a ban was imposed in the North Sea in 1977, which was not fully lifted until 1983.

By that time, the British public had become unfamiliar with what had for centuries been a basic food.

There were "herring wars" in the Middle Ages, they were a favourite food of English and Scottish kings, and were in demand for victualling armies.

The campaign, organized by the Sea Fish Industry Authority with the support of fishermen's organizations and merchants, will try to persuade shoppers of the herring's nutritional merits and, since it normally retails at less than £1 a pound, its value for money.

Poll tax 'will force up leisure charges'

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Charges for swimming pools, leisure centres and other council services will have to rise significantly after poll tax is introduced, the right wing think-tank, the Adam Smith Institute, says in a book published today.

Rents will also rise and the demand for private housing will be boosted. Local government will have to be reorganized once again, according to Mr Douglas Mason, the institute's policy adviser.

The institute welcomes the poll tax or community charge, but makes clear that it is only the beginning of a series of changes to the town halls.

Councils will be able to provide services only if they consider contracting them out to the private sector or charging the public because the poll tax regime will force them to cut their spending.

Mr Mason warns that after the poll tax is introduced some councils will find it difficult to service "creative accountability" deals.

"I suspect that this government, unlike its predecessors, might not be unhappy to let an authority go bankrupt."

Is there life after the Community Charge? Adam Smith Institute PO Box 316 London SW1P 3BL (£9).

Police anger over BBC EastEnders rape scene

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Peter Imbert, and Mr Leslie Curtis, chairman of the Police Federation, yesterday condemned BBC TV's EastEnders drama for its "crude" portrayal of a rape case.

The programme showed a police officer suggesting the character encouraged the assault. But police pointed out that they have remodelled their approach to rape and such scenes should never now occur.

Sir Peter said: "After all our work to reassure the

public that rape victims will receive a sympathetic response, it's disappointing to see police portrayed in a way that is certainly not accurate and which will do nothing to encourage the reporting of this despicable crime."

Mr Curtis added: "Our members will be incensed by this insensitive approach. This crude portrayal could undo public confidence."

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the campaigner on TV standards, called on the Home Secretary to cancel Sunday's repeat.

The Post Office said it welcomed the decision and expected the union to comply with the law. The team briefings played an important role in communications, the Post Office said, but the central issue was its right to manage.

The postal group of the union's executive committee is meeting this morning to discuss the judgement.

The concept of team briefings has been developed by the Industrial Society, which has also urged both sides to settle their differences amicably.

The UCW voted at its annual conference in May not to have anything to do with team briefings, which delegates said were being used to "brainwash" workers, and last week ordered members not to attend them.

against

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Image-makers agonize over how to sell Bush

From Charles Bremner
New York

Could it be his face muscles? Maybe it is because he blinks too much. Whatever the causes, Mr George Bush's image problem has now taken centre-stage in the US presidential campaign.

Though several polls show the Vice-President slightly closing the gap behind Mr Michael Dukakis, allies and strategists are near-unanimous in their advice to Mr Bush — to win the November election he must change dramatically the way the public sees him.

The Doonesbury cartoons mock him as the invincible man. One magazine is running a contest for the best explanation of the joke that Mr Bush reminds all women of their first husband. Another joke has it that he will choose Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick as the vice-presidential candidate to give some machismo to the ticket.

The Bush "gender gap" — the high dislike of Mr Bush among women — is alarming Republican strategists. According to the latest *New York Times* survey, issued this week, Mr Bush is only three points behind the Dukakis among men but 13 percentage points

behind with women voters. Eager to shore up the ticket's macho image, some Republicans have been urging Mr Bush to pick Mr Rudolph Giuliani, the tough, young, New York federal prosecutor, as his running mate. The two are to meet later this week.

According to the experts, almost everything about Mr Bush's looks and character are an image-maker's nightmare.

Listed briefly these include his trade-mark grimaces, his frequent gaffes, his preference for Boy Scout language such as "deep doo-doo" and "tension city", garbled grammar, high-pitched voice, tendency to blink excessively and "negative" body-language, like clasping his hands in front of him.

All this adds up to an image of weakness, insincerity, whiteness and what the Americans call "goofiness". Mr Bush complains that he is not even being given the benefit of his one clear advantage over Mr Dukakis — his 6 ft 2 in height over the governor's 5 ft 7 in. Many Americans see the Vice-President as a small man, according to polls. Comments from the audience reacting to the real-life Mr Bush confirm this. The Vice-President

is himself dismayed by the mounting popular perception of him as a "wimp".

"I have to be better at projecting my passion, my concerns, my strengths," he said in private last week. "And if I can't do better at it — why, who knows what will happen?"

But in recent weeks, the Vice-President has kept up his stream of gaffes and mis-statements, to the glee of the Democrats. At a drug centre he talked to addicts

● He is dismayed by public perception of him as a wimp ●

about the "dependence thing". He also revealed in a TV interview how he was haunted by his recent on-screen quarrel with Mr Dan Rather, the star anchorman.

And then there was his inexplicable slip of the tongue last month when he said that he had "had some sex" with President Reagan. No one knew what he really meant.

But Republicans remain convinced that the crucial swing-voters will shy away from the

Massachusetts governor if only they can prove he is really a liberal sheep in wolf's clothing. So far, however, the polls show the public is not buying the argument.

The *New York Times* poll showed no significant change in the 28 per cent of voters who see Mr Dukakis as a liberal.

The slight sag in the overall Dukakis lead is a clear result of press reporting of his record on law and order and on his budget troubles in Massachusetts.

It is not that the Dukakis charm is bowing over the populace. Most agree that he has little. But, according to the poll-takers, the governor's personality and ideas that shrewdly blend to tap the current national mood.

America wants competence, caution and steady change, so Mr Dukakis, helped by his late 1980s stint as a television presenter, is projecting himself as strong on leadership, predictability, coolness and character.

The electorate wants consensus and moderation over boldness and adventure, so Mr Dukakis steers far away from specifics, preferring to hammer generalities such as the family and "good jobs at good wages". The Democrats

are taking further heart from polls that show their candidate's character in time with issues.

A private survey by Mr Peter Hart, the Democratic poll-taker, found a startling jump in the number of Americans who think the next President must spend more on "kids' programmes" — education and child care — and four to one they believe Mr Dukakis is the man to deliver.

The survey said 60 per cent of voters declared that a candidate who promised "kids' programmes" would have special appeal to them, compared with 47 per cent a year ago. The irony is that Mr Bush has for months been relentlessly hammering at his pledge to become the "education President". Like Mr Dukakis, though, he has never spelt out exactly what this means.

Among women, a full 60 per cent believe Mr Dukakis would do a better job for children, compared with 7 per cent for Mr Bush. With

● He also appears to lack sex appeal and genuineness ●

so much at stake, the consultants are probing the electoral psyche to find out just what it is about Mr Bush, a man with a long career in high public office, that makes him look so ineffectual, particularly among women.

Mr Bush's advisers defend him by pointing out that women are traditionally more inclined to favour Democrats because they stand for the more "caring" feminine issues of education and welfare. But they no longer deny that the Bush personality has much to do with it.

He "lacks sex appeal and genuineness", said one woman academic at a conservative think-tank.

A team of psychologists and political scientists at Dartmouth College have come up with some telling results from research into the way voters assess personality from video-clips.

Test groups of voters are shown tapes of each candidate and asked how they believe he might be feeling about himself and how the candidates make the viewer feel.

They have found that far more women than men rated Mr Bush as being unhappy with himself. The test viewers also rated him

as far more fearful than Mr Dukakis. The reason for this may be fairly obvious to anyone who has watched the Vice-President's performance, but the experts have narrowed down the blame to factors such as his "micro-expressions".

Mr Bush is said to transmit a mood of anxiety by constantly pulling down the corner of his mouth when he flashes his politician's smile. The rapid blinking and a failure to raise his eyebrows are also to blame, they say.

Other experts say that Mr Bush is failing to articulate a "guiding national myth".

A successful presidential candidate must embody a recognizable stereotype. This can be as simple as the image of a boy with a heart of gold in the case of Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy.

According to Mr Steve Barnett of the New York firm, Research and Forecasts, Mr Bush is projecting the undesirable images of the 1980s.

"What Bush condenses is corporate anonymity. He's IBM anonymous," Mr Barnett told *The Washington Post*.

Dukakis angers blacks by his treatment of Jackson

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Mr Michael Dukakis braved the anger of many black leaders yesterday when he addressed a convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) here, a day after he was criticized for his handling of the Rev Jesse Jackson, his remaining rival for the Democratic nomination race.

Insisting that the door of the White House would always be open to black leaders, he spoke of the need to make opportunities greater for all Americans.

He quoted Dr Martin Luther King's exhortation to "make a career of humanity", boasted of his efforts as Governor of Massachusetts to increase the number of blacks in state employment, and outlined his own social agenda.

He was received with polite but cool applause, but there was a pointed lack of reaction when he praised the record of Senator Lloyd Bentsen, the man he selected on Tuesday to be his vice-presidential running mate.

Outside the NAACP convention, many black political leaders were in uproar yesterday over the way Mr Dukakis appeared to have snubbed Mr Jackson and several predicted that the Chicago clergyman's supporters would angrily make their feelings known at the Democratic

Party's Atlanta convention. Black leaders suggested that Mr Dukakis's failure to inform Mr Jackson in advance of his choice of Senator Lloyd Bentsen was deliberate.

Congressman Charles Rangel of New York called it "very unprofessional". He added sarcastically: "I assume the Dukakis announcement was not made to make a special appeal to black folks."

"We are in shock," Mr William Gibson, the NAACP chairman, said.

Another black leader from Mississippi said: "Everywhere I've gone today, people have been talking about the way

Jesse was treated. It was atrocious." Mr Jackson himself, after insisting he was "too mature to be angry", returned yesterday to Chicago, where he was consulting his supporters and delegates.

At a press conference on Tuesday he icily refused to endorse the Dukakis-Bentsen ticket, though he said he would "no doubt" eventually support it.

Later, he made no effort to hide his anger and disappointment when he insisted, in an emotional and sometimes

tearful address to the NAACP, that he was qualified and had earned a place on the ticket. He received a thunderous ovation.

"People say 'Jesse Jackson, why are you running?'," he said. "I am running because the end has not yet come... I will never surrender. I'm running because this struggle for justice is both ancient and endless. I may not be on the ticket, but I'm qualified."

He said the Atlanta convention was not a time for show business. "We go to Atlanta... to deliberate and debate our nation's priorities."

He mocked those who said he was fighting against the odds by still seeking the presidential nomination. "I was born against the odds... I'm an odds-breaker and a dream-maker, and I will never surrender."

Political analysts, however, suggested his anger may soon fade, noting that he said on Tuesday he would keep "all lines of communication open with Dukakis's campaign between now and beyond."

He said Mr Dukakis had the right to solidify his organization in the way he saw best. Mr Jackson insisted his job was to affirm his own strategy. "It is to keep hope alive, to keep focus on our campaign, to keep our delegates and supporters disciplined, detailed and full of hope."

The Bentsen nomination

drew broad approval from most commentators yesterday, who saw it as a daring challenge to Vice-President George Bush in his own back yard. Senator Bentsen was seen as a well-qualified and experienced politician, who in some ways was more like Mr Bush than Mr Dukakis.

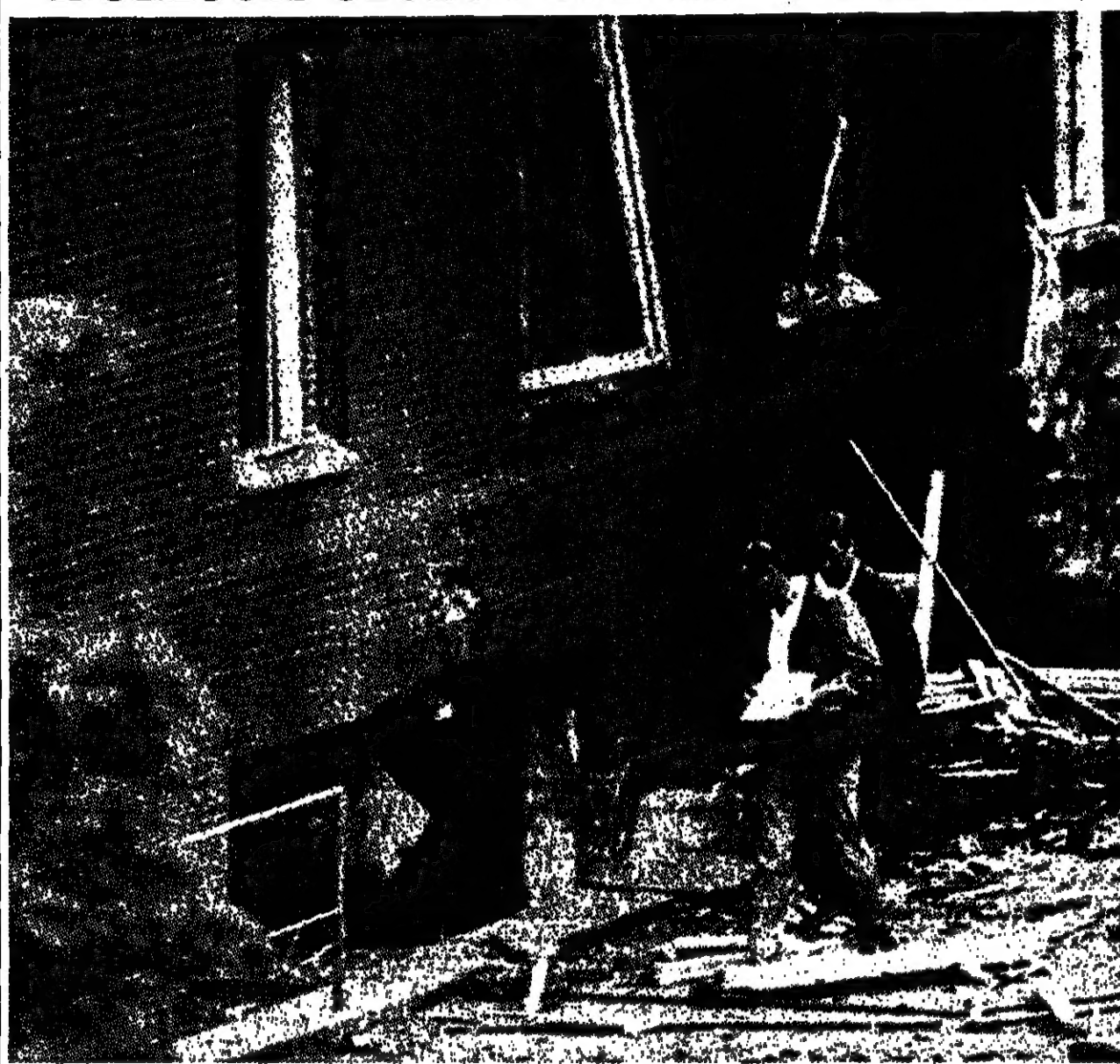
"It's a shrewd, audacious decision, likely to advance the Democrats' chances," *The New York Times* said.

The Washington Post said Mr Bentsen knew his way around Washington, would add balance to the ticket in domestic and economic affairs, and on foreign policy held positions that even contradicted those expressed by Mr Dukakis. However, he was not a visionary.

"He gives no sense that, given a choice, he would take the country to a place very different from where it is. Nor has Mr Dukakis given such a sense so far. They are both ameliorators; they have made their reputations tuning the machinery up, not steering in a new direction."

Mr Lee Atwater, Mr Bush's campaign manager, dismissed the Democrats' attempt to win Texas with Senator Bentsen. He admitted that Mr Bush may have to campaign harder in his home state, but said the Democrats would be forced to sink scarce resources there, in what would ultimately prove to be an exercise in futility.

Bombers breach barracks' defences



Police inspecting the damage done to a wall of the Glamorgan barracks at Duisburg in West Germany by IRA bombs. Nine soldiers were injured in the explosion at 3am yesterday, as 70 British servicemen lay sleeping in the barracks block.

Security check at British bases after IRA raiders foil guards

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The IRA attack on the Glamorgan barracks at Duisburg in West Germany yesterday was particularly worrying for British Army chiefs because the terrorists succeeded in breaching the perimeter fence to plant their two bombs.

The fence is patrolled by armed soldiers throughout the night, yet the bombers were not spotted. Sources indicated that the IRA must have watched the barracks before the attack to monitor the patrol patterns.

Although there was no intelligence tip-off of the latest terrorist attack, security experts had warned that the murder of three RAF servicemen in The Netherlands in May, and the subsequent discovery of a bomb under an army captain's car near the British Army of the Rhine headquarters in Bielefeld, probably heralded the start of a new IRA campaign against military targets.

After the May incidents, a special military committee consisting of General Sir Brian Kenny, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army of the Rhine, Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Skingsley, Commander-in-Chief of RAF Ger-

many, and other senior officers, reviewed every 48 hours the security measures necessary to counter the terrorist threat.

As the security alert level at the garrisons scattered throughout Germany was eased, the committee reverted to a weekly meeting. However, the 70,000 servicemen and women stationed in Germany were reminded to keep up a high standard of personal vigilance and to be constantly aware of the possibility of a terrorist attack.

Barracks which are close to the Dutch border are viewed as the most vulnerable to attack because of the opportunity provided for a quick escape across the frontier. IRA support groups are active in The Netherlands. Within less than 30 minutes of yesterday's attack, the terrorists could have driven across the Dutch-German border.

More than 95,500 British military personnel and about 5,300 civilians working for the Ministry of Defence are based abroad.

But it is clear that the 56,000 soldiers and 11,000 RAF personnel in Germany, and also the 5,000 servicemen and women in Cyprus, face a

greater risk of terrorist attack than those serving in other parts of the world.

The Glamorgan barracks, where 500 men and women of the Transport Regiment are based, stands beside civilian homes, shops and factories with access for traffic on all sides. The barracks had only to place the bombs just inside the perimeter fence to smash windows on both sides of the street in the explosion. The bombs had timing devices; they did not explode until the terrorists had left the scene.

Army officers yesterday said they did not think the security problem at Glamorgan Barracks was any worse than at other British Army bases in West Germany. "I can think of at least nine bases which are sited in towns like this one," a BAOR spokesman said yesterday. "Security arrangements are continually being updated and will be reviewed again as a result of this incident."

The Transport Regiment, part of the Royal Corps of Transport, is the only British military presence in Duisburg and has good relations with the local community.

Army sources dismissed suggestions that it was chosen

as a relatively "soft" target. They said absolute security at British military bases was impossible because of the need to ensure a normal way of life for the servicemen.

"You could only stop people getting into barracks if you employed all personnel to guard every square foot of perimeter fencing," said one source. "But not many people would stay in the Army, and no training would get done."

After the murder of three RAF servicemen in May, in the Dutch towns of Roermond and Nieuw Bergen, and the car bomb at Bielefeld in West Germany, guards at all the main barracks were doubled and the security status went to red alert for a short time.

Since then all servicemen have been warned to check their own cars and to operate "Shark Watch" when they leave the barracks in off-duty hours. Under this system, one serviceman in each group is delegated to act as look-out and to drink no alcohol.

There is also a long-standing rule that vehicles cannot be parked within 25 yards of "official" buildings inside barracks because of the car bomb threat. This does not apply to servicemen's quarters.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Hamadei claims 'mental torture'

Frankfurt (Reuters) — Mr Mohammed Ali Hamadei, a Lebanese accused of the 1985 seizure of a US airliner and the murder of an American passenger, admitted yesterday that he had smuggled explosives into West Germany after being asked to do so by a person in Lebanon, but said other confessions were extracted by mental torture.

Mr Hamadei, who was arrested at Frankfurt in January, 1987, for smuggling explosives, alleged that an official of the Federal Criminal Office and an interpreter appointed by it had continually threatened him and deprived him of basic rights during his 18 months in Preunshausen prison, where his trial is now being held amid tight security.

Greek bases notice

Athens — Greece served the United States formal notice yesterday that the five-year bases agreement signed in 1983 would end on December 31 (Mario Modiano writes). The Americans would have 17 months from then in which to dismantle their military installations in Greece.

Had Greece not given notice five months before the expiry date, the agreement would have been extended for another year. The US has maintained four large bases and 20 smaller installations in Greece and Crete for 36 years.

● WASHINGTON: The United States is hoping for a new accord to keep the bases, despite the Athens Government's announcement, officials said (Reuters reports). They expected a new round of negotiations at the end of July.

Indian rocket fails

Bangalore (Reuters) — India's space programme suffered another blow yesterday when its second attempt to launch a big rocket failed minutes after blast-off. Mr Udipi Ramchandra Rao, the Space Commission chairman, said the fault appeared to be in the first stage of the rocket. He said mission control lost contact 210 seconds after the 39-tonne, four-stage rocket lifted off from the southern island of Sriharikota.

Tokyo defence target

Tokyo (AFP) — The Japanese Defence Agency is to seek the equivalent of \$29.9 billion (£17.7 billion) for defence spending next year. The figure is an increase of 6.7 per cent over the current fiscal year. The Defence Agency director-general, Mr Tsutomu Kawara, explained the agency's decision at a joint meeting of three security-related committees of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. The agency will continue negotiating with the Finance Ministry until tomorrow when the budgetary ceilings for government agencies for the 1989 fiscal year are decided by the Cabinet.

Police chiefs jailed

Madrid — A magistrate sent two high-ranking police officials to prison here yesterday — to avoid the possibility that they "dirty war" to kill off Basque terrorists, and continued his investigation into indications that such activities might have had secret government approval (Harry Debelius writes). Señor José Amedo Fouce, the Deputy Police Chief, and his aide, Señor Michel Dominguez Martinez, refused to answer 200 questions at yesterday's hearing.

Labour leader in Botswana

Kinnock pledge to double foreign aid

From Philip Webster, Gaborone

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday promised that a Labour Government would increase by 2½ times Britain's spending on overseas aid in the lifetime of a Parliament.

The Labour leader, speaking in Gaborone at the end of his visit to Botswana, said that Labour would try to improve the present aid spending by the British Government of 0.28 per cent of gross national product, an all-time low, to at least 0.7 per cent.

This would represent the equivalent of an increase of between 1½p and 2p on income tax, although it is unlikely that all the rise would be found by that means. Britain's overseas aid budget is at present £1.3 billion. The Labour plan would raise it to about £3 billion.

Mr Kinnock said that the Government had cut aid four times more than public spending in general. Aid was now worth £1 billion less each year than it would have been had the last Labour Government's programme continued.

He said he was absolutely confident that the British people, who had shown by their responses to international aid

events their willingness to give, would subscribe "the equivalent of that amount", whether it came directly from income tax or other means.

Mr Kinnock also explained yesterday that he was not a Christian because he was "a bit short on forgiveness".

At the end of the Botswana stay in his tour of the frontline states, he gave a remarkably candid explanation of his beliefs to African and British journalists.

Mr Kinnock said: "I have not got a religion. I would be a Christian. That is my background and upbringing."

"But I find myself unable to completely concede the ultimate idea of forgiveness in the face of what I cannot back what I consider to be the basic Christian requirement of being forgiving."

"Unless I can do something 100 per cent certain in terms of belief, then I would not want to travel under false colours. That is why I am not practising part of any religion," he said.

Mr Kinnock said that, despite his position, people were often surprised by his knowledge of the Bible.

Dead fish herald lucky launch for Hong Kong lingerie

From Thomson Prentice
Hong Kong

When the first fish were found dead at the bottom of their tank in a corner of Marks and Spencer's new store in Hong Kong, the staff breathed a sigh of relief.

It was considered the most graphic of demonstrations that the omens for business were good.

So good, in fact, that the company will open its second branch in the colony during September, only four months after launching itself on unsuspecting Chinese shoppers and grateful expatriates.

Once more, M&S will rely not so much on its ubiquitous patron saint as on the ancient Chinese science of Feng Shui to its fortunes. Feng

Shui is a complex craft, developed over the centuries, which influences much of Oriental life and seeks to achieve harmony between man and his environment.

When it comes to building or opening a new office or shop, the advice of a Feng Shui expert is essential.

He decides whether the location is suitable — it should face the warm south with the strength of the mountains to the north behind it.

The colour scheme has to meet his approval — orange and red mean joy and festivity, whereas grey and black represent disaster and grief.

The day, the hour and even the minute of opening is carefully chosen to get the new venture off to an

auspicious start. And to be on the safe side, a tank full of fish to absorb evil spirits should be placed on the premises.

"Soon after we opened in May, some of the fish in our tank died. That really was a good sign," Mrs Trish Harwood, a spokeswoman for the company, said yesterday.

Before the company opens its new branch, it will again heed the advice of Mr Sung Sin Kwong, a local Feng Shui master.

His comments are particularly important because the new store is geared almost exclusively towards Chinese customers, whereas the first branch appeals more to tourists and British residents in Hong Kong.

"It was like an oasis in the desert

for expatriate wives," said Mrs Sue Campbell, the managing editor of *Eve*, a leading Hong Kong monthly magazine for women.

"At last there was a chance to get some good old St Michael knickers. None of the other stores sell British stuff and because Chinese women are usually much smaller than us, nothing fits," she said.

The snag is that M&S prices here are similar to those in Britain, which makes them considerably more expensive than local rivals.

By Chinese standards, M&S frilly lingerie is considered rather drab.

This may explain why one man purchased £500 worth on the opening day. It may further explain why the underwear department is often

thronged with slightly bemused Chinese housewives.

They are also sampling the exotic offerings of the food department. Chicken Kiev and Raspberry Pavlova, the staple diet of middle-class working couples in Britain, make an adventurous change here from dim sum, chow mein, sweet and sour pork, and crispy duck.

To increase its appeal to local shoppers, the company has devised its own Chinese symbol, which represents a horse and a herbal plant.

"The combination is meant to suggest a strong and graceful image," Mrs Harwood said. "It's also considered to be good Feng Shui."

Gorbachov underwrites Poland's postwar territorial boundaries

Baltic port pledge sends a warning to East Germany

From Richard Bassett, Szczecin, Poland

In a stirring speech to several thousand Polish shipyard workers, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, placed his personal imprimatur on the sanctity of Poland's post-war frontiers yesterday.

In the Baltic port of Szczecin, Poland's most important, Mr Gorbachov said that everything achieved during and after the war "would be properly protected".

Szczecin, Mr Gorbachov insisted, was a "very Polish city", ignoring the fact that it was the German port of Stettin until 1945 and still full of very Prussian architecture.

Sidestepping the fact that Szczecin's incorporation into Poland after the Second World War had been Stalin's way of compensating Poland for the appropriation of large areas of the prewar Polish state, Mr Gorbachov dwelt on the virtues of Polish-Soviet brotherhood.

"We stand now shoulder to shoulder, and you in Poland can be sure that the shoulder beside you is as firm as your own. Szczecin is Poland's present and future," his

speech, while winning applause from the Poles, seems tailor-made to annoy the East Germans, many of whom regard the incorporation of great tracts of former German territory into Poland as unjust and are critical of Mr Gorbachov visiting Szczecin.

It was a clear sign to East Berlin to stop its recent harassment of Polish shipping around the Bay of Szczecin, and it was also an indication of Moscow's clear resistance to the doctrine of *perestroika*.

Ironically, most of those Poles Mr Gorbachov addressed had come to Szczecin after the war as immigrants from old Polish territories seized by Stalin. But this unhappy circumstance, along with other sensitive areas in Polish-Soviet history, were remote during yesterday's visit to the Baltic port.

It was an indication of the nervousness the Government of General Wojciech Jaruzelski feels about having the Soviet leader in Poland, but once again — as in Cracow on Tuesday — Mr Gorbachov was

prevented from mingling with ordinary Poles. At every turn, the Poles he came into contact with were either members of the party or plainclothes policemen.

In the shipyard yesterday, of the 2,500 audience not a single man present was under the age of 30. Most of those who attended had come from the clerical, rather than more militant manual, departments of the shipyard.

For General Jaruzelski, who introduced Mr Gorbachov to the shipyard workers, his undoubted popularity with the Soviet leader has given his credibility a much needed boost. But it is unlikely that Mr Gorbachov's tour would have done anything to eradicate the traditional suspicion that Poles feel towards Russians.

Mr Gorbachov, who has perhaps realized that his reception in Poland had not had the warmth of other tours to Eastern Europe, said: "I have felt respect and hospitality, but there is a bigger and bigger need for mutual understanding."

Mr Gorbachov signing a copy of his book *Perestroika* while General Jaruzelski looks on.

Romania blights East's human rights record

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Soviet Union has improved its human rights record over the last six months, but the picture is patchy elsewhere in Eastern Europe and "appallingly bad" in Romania, according to the Foreign Office.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State, said that Eastern Europe's human rights performance is being closely monitored. It is being compared with the commitments which 33 countries in East and West Europe, as well as the US and Canada, undertook in 1975 at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held in Helsinki.

The timing of Mr Mellor's report, given in answer to a Commons question, is considered significant. It comes as the third review of the Helsinki accords is approaching its target date for completion. Officials of the 35 CSCE nations have been meeting in Vienna for 18 months, and have set themselves a target to finish by the end of July.

The Nato countries see the human rights elements as the litmus test by which the West will judge whether the time is right for East-West con-

ventional arms cuts in Central Europe. Unless agreement is reached in Vienna on human rights, the West will not allow the proposed Conventional Stability Talks between the seven Warsaw Pact and 16 Nato countries to go ahead.

The report says that during the last six months widespread violations of Principle VII of the Helsinki Final Act have continued. This covers freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief.

While Mr Gorbachov's glasnost policies have brought improvements in basic rights in the Soviet Union, key legal guarantees are still only in the drafting stage. "Very few ar-

rests of political activists on criminal charges have taken place," Mr Mellor said, but added that there were still some 300 political prisoners. Jewish emigration has doubled compared with the same period last year, and it is now a crime knowingly to commit a sane person for psychiatric treatment.

There is now only one known case of an Anglo-Soviet family divided by the inability to emigrate. The figures for similar cases in other countries are Czechoslovakia 5, East Germany 9, Romania 17.

Human rights in other Eastern European countries:

Bulgaria: Some human rights activists have received permission to travel, but mostly dissidents are still imprisoned or penalized. Religious communities other than the Orthodox Church have continuing problems. "Bulgaria's treatment of the ethnic Turkish minority flouts all aspects of Principle VII."

Czechoslovakia: Religious activists are still subject to harassment and arrest. A demonstration for religious rights and a peace conference were broken up. Harassment of the Charter 77 movement continues, but two jailed dissidents have been released.

Hungary: The report describes

Budapest's record as "good, but not faultless". An estimated 150 to 200 Hungarians are serving sentences for refusing military service, but legislation on alternative service is planned. Small numbers were arrested at two recent demonstrations.

East Germany: "Implementation of the (Helsinki) Final Act by the GDR remained unsatisfactory. Open signs of discontent among human rights activists increased markedly."

Poland: Implementation by Warsaw is described as "patchy", with a high degree of religious tolerance being offset by censorship of Church

publications. "During industrial unrest in May the authorities resorted to old-fashioned methods of dealing with political protest. But most of those arrested have since been released."

Romania: "There has been no improvement... in Romania's appalling record in implementation... Romania is currently the biggest obstacle to progress in the Vienna CSCE negotiations." Mr Mellor said that the policy of destroying villages and concentrating the population in urban settlements appeared to involve forcible relocation and the loss of homes and lands. Rights of minorities (mainly people of Hungarian descent) "continue to be gradually eroded".

Mr Mellor's report coincides with a Warsaw Pact summit in Poland. There are hopes at the Foreign Office that Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, will use the occasion to urge President Ceausescu of Romania to lift objections to further human rights commitments in the Vienna review, otherwise the prospects of beginning the Conventional Stability Talks on arms cuts in the autumn will be slim.

Bhutto says Zia risks uprising over poll delay

From Zahid Hussain, Lahore

The Pakistan opposition, in its most virulent attack yet on President Zia, has called on the people to resist his "dictatorial regime".

The leaders of the nine-party Movement for Restoration of Democracy, led by Miss Benazir Bhutto, told a rally of more than 100,000 in Lahore on Tuesday night that General Zia had led the nation into political turmoil by violating his constitutional obligation to hold fresh elections within 90 days of dissolving the National Assembly.

Miss Bhutto, the head of the Pakistan People's Party, gave a warning that if the President went back on his pledge to stage polls within the time specified by the Constitution, then the "responsibility for the people's reaction will solely lie with him".

At a press conference yesterday, she said that any delay would be tantamount to an act of high treason.

She said that, by abrogating the 1985 Constitution that General Zia himself had declared, he would reopen "many settled constitutional issues. This Constitution provides him indemnity and protection for all his acts during martial rule. Once it goes, all these acts will come into question."

Miss Bhutto said that the caretaker Government appointed by the President had not taken any positive measures to assure the Opposition that free and impartial elections would be held as required by the Constitution, despite the positive attitude adopted by the nine-party alliance.

She had declared at the rally: "When we had the option, we chose a peaceful path. Now the option lies with General Zia, and it is his decision which way to take the country."

She made it clear during the event, which continued until 3 am on Wednesday, that the Opposition would not accept a ballot run on non-party lines. "We would only accept elections which are free, impartial and party-based."

The opposition leaders also accused General Zia of using Islam and the armed forces to perpetuate his rule. They alleged that he had no intention of handing over power peacefully, and if the people of Pakistan wanted democracy they would have to fight for it.

The highly emotional crowd chanted "Zia must go" and "Death to Zia".

The Lahore rally marked the start of a concerted mass campaign by the Opposition to force General Zia into announcing an election date. It was also the first public meeting addressed jointly by Miss Bhutto and the key leaders of

the seven-year-old anti-Zia alliance, and underlined the accommodation that has taken place between the left, centre and religious right to unite against the general.

Previously, sharp differences had emerged between the People's Party, which rejects fighting an election as part of an alliance, and the rest of the Opposition.

Earlier, Miss Bhutto was accorded a tumultuous welcome at Lahore airport, and a mile-long march of party workers who had come from all parts of Punjab province walked 10 miles in a five-hour procession to the rally site.

Observers here said that the public reception and carnival-like atmosphere were reminiscent of April 10, 1986, when she landed at Lahore after two years' exile in Britain.

The rally, one of the largest in the city's history, is bound to boost the morale of the Opposition as it seeks to move towards the removal of General Zia.

The President is passing through possibly the toughest period of his 11-year rule. His desperate attempt to form his own Muslim League Party, under the leadership of his protégé and the caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab, Mr Nawaz Sharif, also seems to have failed. Observers say that General Zia has become more isolated than ever.

Miss Bhutto alleged yesterday: "It appears that the Government is more preoccupied with the formation of its own Muslim League Party than making arrangements for the elections."

She renewed her call for the United States to monitor elections in Pakistan, as it had done in the Philippines. Observers reported that the presence in Lahore of Mr Arnold Raphael, the US Ambassador to Pakistan, to witness the rally — after a meeting with Miss Bhutto in Islamabad on Monday — was a significant move.



Miss Bhutto: Renewed call for US to monitor election.

Soviet exodus poses problem for Bonn

From John England, Bonn

The relaxed domestic policies of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, including allowing ethnic groups to leave the Soviet Union, are proving to be a mixed blessing for the West Germans.

Bonn is facing a flood of ethnic German emigrants from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe which is straining its immigration facilities. Three reception camps are overflowing, and absorbing the emigrants throughout the country is

putting local authorities under severe pressure. Almost 65,000 emigrants arrived in the first half of this year, which was almost treble the total for the same period in 1987.

Arrivals in June, totalling 14,614, were the highest in a single month for 30 years. Up to 2,500 emigrants a week are reporting to the biggest camp at Friedland, near Göttingen in Lower Saxony, which has already had 500 beds added to its normal capacity of 1,000.

The authorities say the exodus is not

due only to Mr Gorbachov's largesse: poor economic conditions in Poland and emigration towards ethnic Germans in Romania are also playing a part. But in recent weeks increasing numbers of emigrants have come from the Soviet Union.

Bonn is to deal with the problem with emergency measures to relieve the crush at the Friedland camp, as well as at two others in Bavaria and the Ruhr, and a special programme to help the assimilation of emigrants around the country.

US-Nicaragua expulsions tit-for-tat

Sandinista patience snaps after peace hopes founder

From David Gollob, Managua

When the five Central American Presidents signed a peace plan on August 7 last year, the world was stunned by what appeared to be an unprecedented diplomatic breakthrough, and a rare act of defiance of the Reagan Administration by some of its closest allies in a region torn by decades of upheaval.

The plan earned its author, President Arias of Costa Rica, the Nobel Prize for peace.

Nearly a year later, left-wing insurgents in Guatemala and El Salvador continue unabated, while in Nicaragua this week the Sandinistas clamped down on the civilian opposition, in what some observers interpreted as exasperation with a limited experiment in democracy that has failed to end the war with the US-backed Contra rebels.

"The Arias plan was mainly conceived to solve the Nicaragua problem," said one Western diplomat in Managua. "It was not designed for El Salvador or Guatemala, where it died nine months ago. Arias opposed the US policy of aiding the Contras."

His idea was to get the Sandinistas to make moves



towards democracy, under the threat of exposing them to the world as the bastards he really believes they are."

Despite initial reservations about the Arias plan, the Government in Managua became its most ardent champion as soon as it realized that compliance could bury the Reagan Administration's hopes of getting Congress to renew military aid for the Contras.

Spurred by assurances from Democrats in Congress, Nicaragua went further to comply with the Arias plan than any other Central American signatory.

In September last year, President Ortega lifted lengthy bans on the opposition newspaper *La Prensa* and the Church-run radio station, Radio Católica. Although a state of emergency remained in effect, powers of prior censorship would not be applied. In November Señor Ortega announced that he would begin indirect peace talks with the Contras, and he named his most bitter foe in Nicaragua, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, Archbishop of Managua, as mediator. Despite

the unwillingness of neighbouring Honduras to honour corresponding pledges to expel Contra rebels from their bases on its territory, Señor Ortega lifted a six-year state of emergency in January, 1988, and bowed to Cardinal Obando y Bravo's demands for face-to-face talks with Contra leaders.

In February the US Congress duly turned down a Reagan Administration request for further military aid for the Contras, although a so-called humanitarian aid package was approved to keep rebel forces intact while the

negotiations continued. In March the Sandinista army routed Contra forces from their command centre in northern Nicaragua, pursuing them into their sanctuaries in Honduras.

Alarmed at the prospect of a catastrophic Contra defeat, Washington instructed President Azcona of Honduras to ask for help in repelling the Nicaraguan incursion into a remote and virtually unpopulated fringe of rugged mountains and jungle along the border.

Some 3,000 American troops from the 82nd Air-

borne Division were airlifted in and the Sandinista forces withdrew.

Days later desperate Contra leaders met Sandinista officials at the Nicaraguan border post of Sapoa and signed a 60-day ceasefire agreement, pledging to pursue further negotiations towards a final settlement of the conflict.

But the euphoria that briefly took hold of Nicaragua evaporated when it became clear that Señor Enrique Bermúdez, a former colonel in Somoza's National Guard and the rebels' military commander, opposed a permanent peace agreement.

Colonel Bermúdez had not signed the Sapoa pact, and his attempt to purge rebel commanders who did result in a military rebellion that had to be quelled, with intervention on his behalf by the US Central Intelligence Agency.

As the peace talks foundered, anti-government opposition groups, *La Prensa*, Radio Católica and other privately-owned media raised the political temperature with riotous public protests and by increasing the virulent attacks on government policies.

These included wildly dis-

torted accounts of alleged Sandinista repression, gushing praise of Contra leaders, and incitement to evade military service.

Last Sunday the Government's patience snapped. Sandinista police brutally broke up a relatively insignificant anti-government demonstration in a provincial town, arresting three prominent opposition leaders. Accusing the US Embassy in Managua of orchestrating violent incidents as part of a conspiracy to destabilize the country, the Government expelled the US Ambassador to Managua and seven other US diplomats.

Two of them had attended the protest, where they were photographed making a salute of solidarity with the demonstrators. The opposition newspaper *La Prensa* and Radio Católica were shut down. *La Prensa* for 15 days, Radio Católica indefinitely. Both had accused police of provoking the violence. On this occasion, they happened to be right.

The Western diplomat said that the Government has become convinced that it cannot deal with this opposition. "They have made con-

cessions and got nothing in return."

The Government spokesman, Señor René Núñez said: "We have been very flexible, and tolerant... what we are doing now is to show that the law must be complied with."

One of the aspects of the Arias peace plan that is commonly overlooked is that it recognizes the legality of the governments and constitutions of every country in Central America, including Nicaragua. President Cerezo of Guatemala recently shut an opposition TV station he accused of aiding a foiled military uprising.

This did not create an international scandal, while Nicaraguan moves to silence opposition media are headline news. The unequal yardstick with which Sandinistas sins against democracy are measured is an endless irritant to the Government, which now admits mentions the Arias plan only rarely.

"Whatever we do, we are bad," an exasperated Sandinista ideologue said recently. "So why not be really bad and to hell with international opinion?"

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Doubts linger on Unesco chief's ability to force reform

By Susan MacDonald

It is nine months since Señor Federico Mayor was elected Director-General of Unesco, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. He was not chosen for his outstanding qualities but because by then he was the only candidate still in the running when Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow withdrew from his ill-advised attempt to gain a third six-year term.

When Mrs Thatcher took the decision to withdraw from Unesco three years ago — a year after the United States — she did so out of disquiet over Mr M'Bow's deviation from culture into politics and the fact that an estimated 75 per cent of Unesco's budget was going

on salaries and the upkeep of its Paris headquarters.

Although there were private doubts about his strength of character, much good will was invested in Señor Mayor, a Spanish biochemistry professor, who was Spain's Education Minister in 1980 and Unesco's deputy director-general from 1978 to 1981.

Britain's official position was that it would not consider returning until after the general conference in 1989, when his influence could be properly measured.

This position might have softened if by now signs of positive change had begun to emerge. However, many member countries are beginning to doubt Señor Mayor's ability to reform Unesco. Although the authoritarian at-

mosphere which prevailed under Mr M'Bow has disappeared, Señor Mayor's plans to change Unesco have not been translated into action and in speeches are still referred to in the future tense.

Many of his ideas are sound — combating illiteracy, protecting the environment and the free flow of information — but two big obstacles continue to hinder their implementation.

Firstly, he has failed to remove the men who ran the M'Bow machine. Secondly, he has failed to revitalize Unesco's secretariat. It is said that without strong men to support him and a sound secretariat, Unesco is doomed. The most able secretariat members left under an incentive scheme introduced by Mr M'Bow to avoid large-scale

dismissals after the British and United States withdrawals caused a 30 per cent drop in Unesco's budget.

Last autumn it was said that Señor Mayor believed in gradual change rather than a palace coup. The old guard would be slowly eased out and by this summer new faces would appear. So far, by his own admission, the only easing out has been of 31 middle-ranking employees.

Señor Mayor presented a rather abstract and utopian sketch of his medium-term plans to last month's executive board which, however, had the merit of emphasizing the need for "doing less to do better" and attempting to depoliticize Unesco's work.

The executive board rejected his

sketch and, under the chairmanship of Mr Iba Der Thiam, right-hand man to Mr M'Bow, a draft resolution was passed setting out guidelines for Señor Mayor to produce a new plan for the autumn.

The guidelines, broader than the Director-General's own ideas, see the reinsertion of a programme based on "Unesco's contribution to peace, human rights and the elimination of all forms of discrimination".

The Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and apartheid in South Africa will continue to be discussed, although many Western countries consider their place is in the United Nations itself. Señor Mayor says he does not feel bound by these guidelines.

Unesco's rumour factory contin-

ues to work overtime. There are hints that Señor Mayor fears upsetting African countries or the Soviet Union, which supported him in the election.

Countries such as West Germany are becoming impatient with continuing inaction and are said to be giving Señor Mayor until the end of next year to prove himself. Britain continues to contribute substantially to individual projects, such as the World Heritage Convention and the inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission, which it considers worthwhile.

But the longer Britain remains outside the organization the more difficult it becomes for Señor Mayor to convince the Government of Unesco's usefulness.

Zimbabwe minister's wife is shot dead

Harare (AFP) — Mrs Sheila Hove, wife of Zimbabwe's Minister of Mines, Mr Richard Hove, was shot dead yesterday at the couple's farm in central Zimbabwe, police said. The manager of the farm just outside Gweru, about 140 miles south-west of Harare, also died in the incident.

Mrs Hove was convicted earlier this year of stealing a child her husband had fathered, of threatening the mother with a gun and of destroying property belonging to the woman. Her jail sentence was suspended.

Roads clear

Canberra (Reuters) — Drivers lifted a 1,000-truck blockade on highways in four states pending the outcome of talks on higher registration fees.

Ducat trove

Delhi (Reuters) — A woman found more than 120 gold Venetian ducats between 600 and 1,000 years old while scavenging through rubbish in the western city of Nashik.

Beira attack

Maputo (AP) — Guerrillas raided a festival at Beira, Mozambique's second biggest city, killing 16 people and injuring 72, the national news agency said.

Mafia killing

Palermo (AP) — A convicted Mafia boss, Pietro Messina Vitale, was killed by a rival gang as he rode a motorcycle to his holiday villa near here.

Train swoop

Amsterdam (Reuters) — Police arrested 18 teenagers who regularly took passenger trains on late-night joy rides near the eastern town of Zwolle.

Fair cop

Peking (Reuters) — The Armed Police, a serious crimes unit, launched a campaign to stop officers reading pornography and other "unhealthy" literature, the Culture News said.

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PARLIAMENT

Takeover faces delay

BAe wants more time to decide on Rover

British Aerospace had asked at the last minute for more time to examine the revised terms agreed between the Government and the EEC for the company's proposed takeover of the Rover Group. Lord Young of Grafham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Lords.

Peers complained that the proposed takeover had been thrown into confusion and expressed concern about the future of the group.

Lord Young said: "I told the House when I announced the agreement I had reached with British Aerospace (BAe) for the sale of the Government shareholding in Rover Group that I would try to return to the House before the summer recess to report further developments."

"This morning the European Commission decided the outline terms upon which it would

HOUSE OF LORDS

be willing to close its state aid procedure.

"These terms effectively reduce the amount of the cash injection from the Government from £547 million with the consideration remaining at £150 million, but there would have been important relaxations in the tax conditions."



Lord Young: EEC reduced cash injection

"Until lunchtime today it appeared that BAe were prepared to accept these terms. However, at the last minute they have asked for more time to consider the implications of other conditions attached to the Commission decision."

"Discussions between BAe and the Government are continuing and I will report to you further as soon as I am able."

Lord Williams of Elvel, chief Opposition Trade and Industry spokesman in the Lords, said that peers were now in almost total confusion. The Opposition was grateful to Mr Peter Sutherland, the EEC Commissioner, for protecting the interest of the British taxpayer rather than the Government had.

Lord Ezra, for the SLD peers, said that his party was in the same state of confusion. The peers all agreed that they wanted to see the Rover Group as successful as possible. The question is could it be successful under the arrangements now proposed? If this deal goes ahead and BAe were to agree, would it be in the best interests of the motor industry?

Lord Young said that he had

had six meetings with Mr Sutherland, carried out in a "very temperate manner" and he had nothing but admiration for the Commissioner.

At the meeting this morning, they had decided to defer the decision until after the summer recess. BAe, having just seen them, had asked Lord Young for further time.

He hoped to return to the House for the final decision before the recess.

Lord Stoddart of Swinton (Lab) said it was an outrage that the Government had to go cap in hand to a foreign junta for a decision affecting British jobs and British people.

He called for an assurance that the restrictions put by the European Commission on the disposal of Rover would not result in a foreign takeover of Rover.

Lord Young replied that Britain was part of the European Community and therefore there had to be level playing fields throughout Europe.

Lord Harman-Nicholls (C) said British people were getting resentful that they could not spend their own money in their own way and help their own industry.



President Evren of Turkey visiting the Prime Minister at Downing Street yesterday (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

New deficit forecast on the way

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is to issue a revised production of the Government's deficit. Mr Alan Clark, Minister for Trade, said at questions. The deficit in manufactured trade in the first five months had been £5.2 billion.

He was replying to Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West, Lab), who asked what excuse the Government had for the ever-worsening deficit in manufacturing.

The official Budget estimate had been close to £4 billion by the end of the year. Was it not time the Government produced a revised estimate or was it too ashamed?

Mr Clark said that 70 per cent of the deficit was accounted for by increased consumer spending. That itself was a function of high earnings and a raised standard of living. "We all know the Labour Party objects to that. It's why it had lost the last three general elections."

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, C) said that prosperous companies such as British Aerospace, Jaguar and Plessey were finding their margins being squeezed by the high rate of the pound. "We need a competitive pound so that industry can really export."

Mr Clark said that he was not sure what was meant by a competitive pound. "The most successful exporting countries are those with the strongest exchange rates."

Government 'has got itself into an unholy mess'

The Government had got itself into an unholy mess on the Rover deal, Mr Bryan Gould, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said after Lord Young of Grafham's statement had been repeated to MPs by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Trade and Industry.

Mr Gould called the statement brief and astonishing and said that the EEC had proved to be a more effective negotiator on behalf of the British taxpayer than had Lord Young.

He asked if the statement was not "an embarrassing confession that the Government has got itself into an unholy mess, a mess which remains unresolved even at the cost of a humiliating rebuff of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State (Lord Young of Grafham) and at the cost of conceding to the EEC control over anything - including the Government's pet privatisation projects that might still be called British industrial policy."

The mess had led to the Government's having to answer one or two difficult questions. If BAe decided, as now seemed in doubt, to go ahead with the reconstructed deal, how was it that Lord Young had offered them £250 million more than they were prepared to accept?

"Why was the EEC so much more effective a negotiator on behalf of the British taxpayer than the Secretary of State? Why was he so profligate with tax payers' money? This is further

evidence of just how careless this Government is when it disposes of public assets without any thought for the taxpayers."

If, on the other hand, BAe shareholders refused to back the deal, what did the Government have to put in its place? "Where is the fallback position for which we pressed repeatedly over recent months? Where is the

How was it Lord Young offered BAe £250m more than they wanted to accept?

guarantee of the future of the last British volume car manufacturer?"

Did not Rover's excellent results today show what had been achieved, and what could be achieved, under public ownership (Labour cheers)? "And do they not demonstrate that this ill-starred foray into privatisation is an expensive and shortsighted policy?"

If the key to the deal was the tax arrangement whereby BAe hoped to use Rover's tax losses to offset their own price liabilities, would this not fall foul of the incoming Corporation Tax Act? Was it not this potential illegality, perhaps, that was worrying BAe?

There was the sense of commitment to the British volume car manufacturing industry

which this sorry episode demonstrated was so significantly lacking from the Government and now, sadly, from BAe itself."

Where was the recognition of the importance of this industry, the guarantees of its future, and what reliance could be put now on an arrangement born of the Government's obsession with privatisation and which even then the Government had bungled?

Mr Clarke said that the statement might be short, but it was not in the least embarrassing to himself, Lord Young or the Government. It had been clear that the agreement was conditional upon discussions with the European Commission.

"In my opinion Lord Young conducted these negotiations with the Commission and BAe with considerable skill (Opposition interruptions and laughter). He had produced an agreement satisfactory to the Government, to the Commission and, as far as I was aware, to an hour or two ago, satisfactory to BAe (laughter)."

"BAe have at the last moment decided that they wish to reconsider part of the deal. In my opinion the point that is troubling them is not a particularly important or material part, but that is not for me to determine but for BAe."

Of course the scale and structure of the agreement had changed to reflect negotiations with the Commission and compliance with the state-aid

procedures, which the Government supported. There had been considerable improvements in the trading position of Rover Group since this had been first entered upon.

"In my opinion, agreement can be reached which is satisfactory, certainly as far as the Government is concerned."

There were proposals about tax arrangements, but they were entirely consistent with the law. The time to give details was when negotiations were concluded. "That is now in the hands of BAe. I trust they will soon come to a conclusion."

Mr Norman Tebbit (Chingford, C) said that it was entirely consistent with the Opposition's usual attitude that Mr Gould condemned the deal whether it went ahead or whether it did not.

Great progress had been made by Rover, but was it not a fact that, despite what Mr Gould had called "splendid results", it was taking up to £500 million to persuade anyone to take the business away?

In further talks with the relevant Commissioner, Mr Peter Sutherland, would Mr Clarke express the hope that what was sauce for the British goose would be the same sauce for the German gander and apply to the proposed merger between MBB (Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm) and Daimler-Benz with a proposed subsidy of about £1 billion?

Mr Clarke said that when the

agreement had been first announced Mr Gould had not been sure whether the cash injection was too large or too small. Mr Gould had condemned today's agreement without knowing what it did.

The problem was not with Mr Sutherland. "We have a satisfactory agreement with Mr Sutherland consistent with the state aid proposals which this Government is in support of."

Mr Robert Sheldon (Ashtons-under-Lyne, Lab), chairman of the public accounts committee, said that the committee would want to make sure that the Government was getting the best possible deal for the taxpayer and ensuring value for money.

Mr Clarke said that the committee would quite rightly

The point that is troubling the company is not a particularly important matter

wish to take an interest in this once an agreement had been concluded. The Government was taking great care to see that the interests of the taxpayer, the company and the British economy were looked after.

Mr Timothy Smith (Beaconsfield, C) said that surely the shareholders were entitled to reconsider when there had been

such a significant change in the terms.

Mr Clarke said that the shareholders of BAe had not entered directly into the matter. Any agreement that emerged would have to go to an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders.

Mr Terence Davis (Birmingham, Hodge Hill, Lab) said that the uncertainty would cause difficulty for the Rover Group in trying to sell cars in August, one of the most important selling months in the year.

Mr Clarke said that he hoped that any difficulties would be resolved quickly.

Mr Matthew Taylor (Truro, SLD) said Mr Clarke's face was red enough for the Labour front bench. What the sticking point with BAe and what would happen if the deal fell through?

Mr Clarke said that his florid complexion was the natural result of his healthy lifestyle and it contrasted with Mr Taylor's pallor (laughter). It would be wrong for him to talk about the details of this final snag, although he was somewhat puzzled about why BAe believed it to be so significant.

Mr David Nellist (Coventry South East, Lab) said that if Mr Sutherland could negotiate a £255 million reduction in BAe's debt, why couldn't the minister?

Mr Clarke replied that there had been changes in the scale and nature of the deal.

Economic miracle 'possible'

If this country were to catch up with Germany, it would need to grow at a rate faster than Germany well into the 1990s, which was a legitimate objective, Mr John Betcher, Under Secretary of State, Trade and Industry, said at questions.

"If we continue with current policy, what has been mooted as the British economic miracle can happen."

Mr Sean Hughes (Knowsley South, Lab) said that this country was at least 10 per cent and probably 15 per cent less competitive than the West Germans. When would the Government's policy on interest rates and exchange rates do something to help rather than hinder?

Mr Betcher said that an appreciating currency had been a trend that German manufacturers had coped with brilliantly. They had concentrated on non-price as well as price factors, things such as quality, marketing and design. "We should do the same."

Debate on nurses refused

It looked as if the Government's promise to the nurses to fund their pay award in full would not be fulfilled. Miss Jean Walley (Stoke-on-Trent North, Lab) said when she unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate on nurses' pay.

There was a danger of a new crisis in the National Health Service, she said. An earlier one this year had been averted by a debate and there should be another debate now.

She was anxious to avoid the NHS's being crippled by nurses leaving it for the private sector. The promised grading review should be independent and objective because the nurses had no confidence in the Government.

Research lab is closed

Mrs Ray Michie (Argyll and Bute, SLD) failed in an attempt to get an emergency debate on the closure of a marine research laboratory near Oban in her constituency. She said that 20 jobs would be lost by the closure from one of the biggest employers in the area.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Treasury; Prime Minister; Finance (No 2) Bill; completion of remaining stages. Lords (3): Health and Medicines Bill, committee, first day.

Britain has voted to control supply

Call for more action on ozone layer

The Government was urged from all sides to take stronger action in defence of the world's ozone layer in a late-night debate on Tuesday on EEC documents on the control of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and on the ozone layer.

Mr Colin Moyalhan, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, moved a motion, later approved without a division, to take note of the documents; to support through EEC-wide action the Montreal protocol on production of CFCs; to control consumption of CFCs and halons by control of supply; and to encourage voluntary action by industry to reduce their use as much as possible.

He said that halons were widely used in fire extinguishers. Research needed to be encouraged into substances with the same effect that were not ozone depleters.

CFCs were used in refrigerators, foam-blowing and aerosol propellants. The Government was taking a very tough line on production. Britain had urged the United States to move from specific bans on CFCs to an overall ban.

Britain had voted to control consumption by controlling supply rather than controlling particular uses, a method that had been shown elsewhere to be insufficient and inflexible. It was allowing market forces to determine the use to which resources should be put.

In Britain, the aerosol industry had announced the phasing out of non-essential uses of CFCs by the end of 1989. The Montreal protocol was an important enforcement achievement. Britain would go on to prepare for the first review in 1990.

Mr Allan Roberts, an Opposition spokesman on the environment, said that the ozone layer was the only one the world had. If no action were taken now because the case was unproven, by the time it was proven it could be too late.

The way forward for the British chemical industry was to do the research and produce substitutes for CFCs. The US was ahead on this and one of the reasons why it was ahead was that the US Government, and as a consequence US industry, had taken the issue much more



Mr Roberts: Demand for research by industry seriously than Britain had in the past.

The Government should assist the chemical industry with research to find substitutes for CFCs. There should be legislation to ensure that all products were labelled and a timetable for a ban on all non-essential uses of CFCs as soon as alternatives were developed.

The protocol was to some extent a confidence trick because consumption was to be cut by half, but production by only 35 per cent so many of the difference could be exported.

Mr Michael Stern (Bristol North West, C) said the protocol allowed developing countries to increase production of CFCs. China alone, which was classified as a developing country, would be permitted to increase world production of CFCs by half.

Under the protocol it would be possible purely by the use of the developed countries' exception to double the production of CFCs in 10 years. "I find that frightening."

Mr Hugo Summerson (Walthamstow, C) said that Britain simply could not afford inaction. "Even as we sit here there are 35 per cent more of these wretched substances being pumped up into the stratosphere."

There were two important things the EEC should do to avoid further damage. It should permit no imports or exports of these substances and there should be mandatory labelling of aerosols.

MPs 'have been misled'

The House of Commons had been misled by discrepancies between statements about Ravenscraig steelworks made by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Trade and Industry, and Sir Robert Scholey, chairman of the British Steel Corporation (BSC). Dr John Reid (Motherwell North, Lab) said during questions.

He sought confirmation or denial of Sir Robert's assertion that he had advised the Government some time ago of the "probability" of the closure of the hot strip mill at Ravenscraig. If that information had been given, why was it suppressed?

Mr Clarke saw no inconsistency between what he had said in December and what Sir Robert had said, so he did not understand what all the fuss was about in Scotland.

In December, he had told the House that the BSC had predicted that, subject to market conditions, there was a continuing need for steel-making at Ravenscraig for at least the next seven years.

He had also told the House that there was a problem with hot strip mill capacity and therefore he could not say the same about the hot strip mill, although certainly it would be required until the end of this year.

After that, everything depended on market conditions. It was for the chairman and management of the BSC to make their judgements about those conditions.

At the moment, as far as he knew, British Steel had no plans about the hot strip mill and he did not imagine it would have any plans until it saw the state of the market next year.

Mr Alexander Salmood (Banff and Buchan, SNP) asked about the impact of the dismemberment of Ravenscraig on industrial activity. How could it be argued that the anti-Ravenscraig bias shown by Sir Robert was in any way compatible with the comments of Mr Clarke that Ravenscraig was in genuine competition with other steel plants?

"Does he really believe that by privatization the Government can wash its hands of this disgraceful betrayal?"

Mr Clarke said that he could not understand why Scottish members used such phrases as dismemberment.

His remarks in December had been based on British Steel's forecasts of its needs and forecasts of the market place, and he had made clear the Government's position.

So far as the hot strip mill was

concerned the Government could say only that its future was guaranteed until the end of the year.

● If British Steel were to consider closing the steel-making plant at Ravenscraig it would consider an offer from the private sector as an alternative. Lord Sanderson of Bowden, Minister of State for Scotland, said during the third reading in the House of Lords of the British Steel Bill.

He was replying to a motion proposed by Lord Morton of Shuna (Lab) that the Articles of Association of any successor company should reflect the responsibilities of the corporation to the Scottish economy. The amendment was rejected by 143 votes to 59 - Government majority, 54.

Lord Morton of Shuna said that past secretaries of state had fought successfully to keep Ravenscraig going. It was unfortunate that the Government had now apparently decided to wash its hands of the project.

In view of the Prime Minister's remarks in the Commons the previous day about Ravenscraig's future, those in Scotland interested in seeing that the plant continued to operate now demanded that it should be given some protection.

Ministers criticized over Barlow Clowes

The Department of Trade and Industry was sharply criticized from both sides of the Commons for its role in the Barlow Clowes affair.

MPs urged Mr Francis Maude, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to offer compensation to those who had lost money through reliance on the DTT inspection system.

Mr Bryan Gould, Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that the affair was the unacceptable face of capitalism. Mr Maude should not take refuge in the delaying tactic of a departmental investigation, but give acknowledgement now of his department's responsibility and its willingness to compensate for the loss of life savings suffered by virtue of his department's default.

Mr Maude retorted that it was

disgraceful to exploit the genuine distress of a lot of people.

"It is outrageous to suggest that my department is in any way seeking to delay. We have been extremely frank and have set up an independent inquiry by someone of great distinction and independence."

Mr Stephen Day (Cheadle, C) had asked for investors in Barlow Clowes to be compensated at an early date in respect of any responsibility borne by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Maude: It would be wrong for me to prejudice the outcome of the consideration Lord Young of Grafham, the Secretary of State, and I shall give to the Barlow Clowes case, including the report of Sir Godfrey Le Quesne's inquiry into the facts.

Mr Alfred Morris (Manchester, Writenshaw, Lab): Has he seen the Ombudsman's comments to me on this scandal? Is he satisfied that a DTT inquiry is enough when another department may be involved?

What immediate help can be offered to Mr Leslie Mullard, who, in his mid-seventies, has lost his whole life savings?

Mr Maude: The Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman) has felt unable to comment on his correspondence with Mr Morris, as it was written to him in confidence. But I was surprised to see reports that the Parliamentary Commissioner felt able to conclude that there was an apparent case of maladministration for the department to answer.

He has since clarified his views and emphasizes that, while an investigation in principle is warranted, that in no way indicates a view of the merits of the case.

It could not possibly do so. The Parliamentary Commissioner has not been in contact with my department at all and statements by ministers on which he is reported to have based his view carried no implication of maladministration.

Whether he investigates individual cases is a matter for him. It is not inhibited by the independent inquiry from conducting an investigation.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab): This has implications for the wider over-the-counter market. The whole over-the-counter market is one gigantic 'con'. Will he close it before thousands more investors lose money in it?

Mr Maude: Many small com-

panies had been able to raise money and create jobs by using that market.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, SLD): How many people invested redundancy money in this organization and saw their money for retirement being lost, while relying on the DTT inspection system? Will he take that very much into account in deciding on compensation?

Mr Maude: I am very much aware, better than most MPs, of how many people invested all their spare money in this company. I am also well aware of the anxiety and distress caused.

It was necessary to draw a distinction between the United Kingdom Barlow Clowes, which was subject to United Kingdom regulations, and about 200 based company, which was not.

Programme of legislation

Peers back to work early

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Peers will be asked to return to work during the Conservative Party annual conference in October to finish off this session's heavy legislative programme.

Government business managers have decided on an early return on October 10 because of protests from all sides of the Lords at the prospect of sitting into August.

The problem is the Housing Bill, deregulating the private rented sector and allowing council tenants to opt out of local authority control. Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, has been forced to rethink parts of the radical reforms because about 200 councils have signalled their

enthusiasm for using the legislation to sell off all their housing stock.

The last-minute amendments tabled by the Government delayed its passage through the Commons and it still has to pass through all its detailed scrutiny in the Lords.

Both Houses expect to rise for their long summer holidays on July 28 or 29. The schedule pencilled by business managers for the tail end of the session brings peers back one month before MPs, who are likely to return to Westminster on November 7. Both Houses will then settle final disputes on the Housing, Firearms, and Health and Medicines Bills before the end of the 17-month session.

Ministers expect tough fights with peers on all these measures and end-of-session deals and concessions will inevitably be necessary as time runs out - and the tension rises. However, the Queen is likely to open the new session on November 15 unless there are any serious hold-ups to the remaining legislation.

Most ministers are on course to get their Bills enacted before the summer recess, as planned, including the big education, poll tax and criminal justice changes. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, promised both Houses early debates on his White Paper on reforming the Official Secrets Act. These, however, might have to wait for the autumn spill-over period.

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SPECTRUM

At the Lambeth Conference Dr Robert Runcie must do his best to unite an increasingly recalcitrant flock

Right man,

wrong time?

THE TIMES
PROFILE

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Robert Runcie MC. Primate of All England and Metropolitan of Canterbury, once had the indignity to be described by Clive James as "an anodyne divine who'll put unction in your function". James was right, but not entirely in the way he meant. Dr Runcie is a soother away of pain — anodyne: he is a godly and learned man — a divine. And the supplementary definition of unction in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* — "a sympathetic quality in words or tone caused by deep religious or other emotion" — describes his style perfectly. He is affectionate, decent, loyal, amusing, sentimental and industrious. He is even a great Archbishop of Canterbury, or as great as the age will allow.

Yet he is a failure at his job, though such is the impossible nature of it that success would elude even a saint with genius. He may be presiding over a Church of England in the early stages of breaking up, and over an Anglican Communion in the later stages of the same, but there is almost nothing he can do about it. He movingly quoted and endorsed at the General Synod last week the remarks of Archbishop Frederick Temple that he could imagine nothing worse than a Church of England divided, a far worse fate than a Church of England disestablished. And the synod promptly did the very thing he was pleading with it not to do — by no means the first time it has heard and then ignored him.

The obvious but great mistake in assessing Runcie is to make comparisons between his office and some other, supposedly similar, such as that of a president, prime minister or pope. They all have the power to make things happen or to stop them. Those pulling this way and that need them on their side, and so must persuade them or give way. But hardly anyone needs to persuade an Archbishop of Canterbury, for he has so little power. And thus there is no point in kicking him either. The late Dr Gareth Bennett's famous *Crockford's* preface attack on Runcie last December,

for lacking decisiveness and always going with the crowd, was unjust because these very qualities are part of the job specification. If the church wants firm leadership, it had better first learn some of the necessary conditions of leadability, and create a position from which it can be led. It is not the position currently occupied by the tall and amiable man from Lancashire. He is just the fall-guy, an Americanism all the more appropriate in view of what is likely to happen to him shortly at American hands.

The archbishop was described by his biographer Margaret Duggan as temperamentally a conservative, intellectually a liberal. This is the key to understanding this complex, intelligent and likeable man. When the emotional and intellectual forces in his personality are aligned, he is as formidable as any churchman of his generation; but when they are opposed he is almost visibly unmanly.

Once, as Bishop of St Albans, he had proposed an amendment which the General Synod had debated, and so swayed was he by the strength of the case on either side that he admitted half way through his speech that he did not know whether to press on or withdraw.

An interval of amused silence followed, as the synod waited to see if he could commit himself. He could not, and left it to the synod to choose, siding, just as Bennett unkindly charged a decade later, with the majority whichever way it went. One senses that what was made manifest on that occasion has happened many times in private.

What pains the church just now is the ordination of women: in the Church of England, to the priesthood; in the Anglican Communion, to the episcopate. On the former, at least, Runcie has declared himself intellectually convinced: where he stands on the latter we will know in a week or two. And in a church where intellectual conviction is regarded as the only sort that counts, Runcie is therefore now seen to be unmistakably on the side of women priests. He is a man of strong



temperament, however, and his temperament is nothing like as convinced as his intellect. He has run out of arguments; but now he smells danger.

It would be revealing to know what his private thoughts and feelings were at the time Terry Waite set out on his last journey to Beirut. Waite and he were not, by all accounts, getting on too well at the time. It is likely Runcie

allowed himself to be persuaded to let Waite go against the advice of his instincts, again smelling danger but having run out of arguments. The archbishop had a bad year last year, inevitably blaming himself for the misjudgement, and for a while went off to Oxford for a rest. He gave all the signs of a man who needed a long conversation with himself, to struggle through a difficult private conflict.

This year he is back in better form, half way through a critical year. Because an Archbishop of Canterbury is *ex officio* the senior among all the bishops and archbishops of the 27 provinces of the Anglican Communion, it falls to him to try to hold the Anglican Communion together, a job no one else could hope to do. That an Archbishop of Canterbury has such a role is one of the few things

BIOGRAPHY

1921: Born October 2.
1932: Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby.
1941: Brasenose College, Oxford (interrupted by conscription).
1942: Commissioned into the Scots Guards.
1945: Awarded Military Cross, tank action in Holland.
1946: Resumed studies at Brasenose College.
1949: First Class Honours degree.
1949: Westcott House Theological College, Cambridge.
1950: Curate, Gosforth, Newcastle.
1953: Chaplain and vice principal, Westcott House.
1956: Dean of Trinity Hall, Cambridge.
1957: Married Rosalind Turner.
1960: Principal, Cuddesden Theological College.
1970: Bishop of St Albans.
1980: 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury.
1982: Invited Pope John Paul II to Canterbury.
1988: Presides at Lambeth Conference.

it can be certain the rest of the Anglican Communion agrees upon. The last Lambeth Conference, to which by custom all diocesan bishops of the Anglican worldwide family are invited each decade, fell just 10 years ago; so it was Runcie's task to call another. And now the 400-plus bishops and their numerous wives and advisers are due to arrive at the university campus just outside Canterbury this Saturday.

Runcie knows it could be the show-down, the last in the long procession of Lambeth Conferences which started with a meeting, at the request of the Canadian bishops, in 1867.

Like the office of Archbishop of Canterbury itself, the meetings have been important but not powerful, a Lambeth Conference is technically no more than a consultation between equal and autonomous parts, in effect separate churches of the Anglican Communion. What has united them in the past unites them less and less as the years go by, those same fundamentals of historic Anglicanism whose demise so grieved Bennett.

Just as the Church of England has moved on from the 39 Articles and the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, relegating them to a place of honour in its museum of doctrinal history, so have the other churches. The influence of English and an English way of looking at things has also declined, and this will be the first Lambeth Conference at which simultaneous translation into other languages has had to be provided.

Out of this Runcie has to extract something like common ground. Yet many of the bishops are coming to Canterbury to do bitter battle. For some, continued association with the Anglican Communion is only acceptable provided women bishops are accept-

able to it, at the very least on a "live and let live" basis. For others, little short of a permanent ban on women bishops will keep them in.

The 1978 Lambeth Conference, after much agonized debate, reached a "live and let live" compromise on the ordination of women to the priesthood, mainly because it was an innovation that could be kept out of sight and far away. But the formula barely managed to persuade such opponents as the Bishop of Truro (now the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard) that this would do; and for such as him, agreement this time to the consecration of women bishops certainly will not. But the Americans, who regard women bishops as the natural and logical next step after women priests, do not accept that the Lambeth Conference has any authority to stop them. They come to Canterbury to convert, not to be converted. As an advance gesture of their militancy, some 40 of them have already announced that they will play no part in Church of England services while they are here, as a protest against the English all-male priesthood.

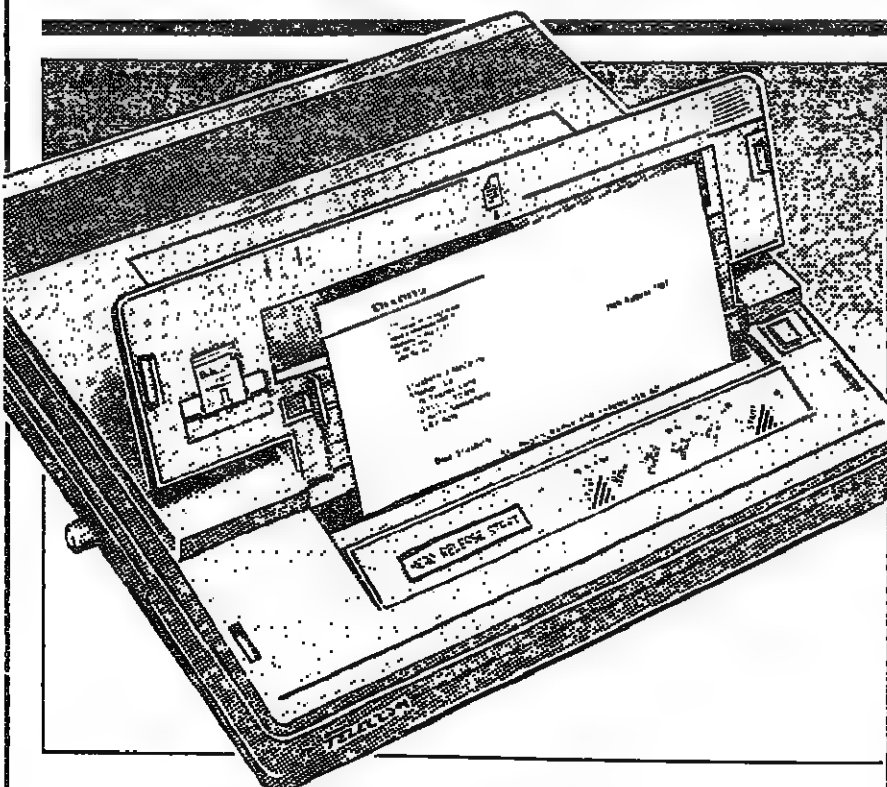
It will be sad for Runcie if these irresistible forces and immovable objects collide before his very eyes; but it will not be his fault. He can only really be judged, in such a desperate case, by how well he handles the damage limitation afterwards. And in that respect, he is the right man in the right place at the right time, precisely because of those qualities which Clive James was so rude about. For at this ecclesiastical function there will be plenty of pain to try to soothe away, by a sympathetic quality of words from a godly and learned leader. And the more he follows his temperament rather than his intellect, the better he will do it.

Clifford Longley

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The lesson of Adolfo

artfile

A weekly look at the art world



Sarah Jane Checkland

Once he was a society painter, but who remembers Müller-Ury now?



Adolfo Müller-Ury: his works would face rejection by critics

stroke. ("I feared so much that he might pass adverse comment upon my work that at the end I was completely tired out and could work no longer," said the painter afterwards).

His charges soared accordingly, from \$800 in 1889 to \$1,000 in 1900. By 1920 a portrait cost \$20,000 (£5,000). Most encouraging of all for Müller-Ury's aspirations to posterity was a promise from Lord Duveen, at that time

financing wings at both the National and Tate Galleries, to build one at the Tate specifically for him. It was to have been filled with Müller-Ury's "Rose paintings", knocked up between portraits like Sunday afternoon naps.

The case for a Müller-Ury comeback is very hard to prove, largely through lack of evidence. Mysteriously, the family letters were destroyed by his sister, Stephen Conrad

has accumulated a mass of photographs of paintings from various attics. Although they give a general impression of classic European portraits, the black and white images are often too fuzzy to draw conclusions.

Another problem concerns the nature of portraiture, whereby interest in the subject is often greater than that in the painter. And so when the sinner dies, so does the painting's appeal. Apart from the Kaiser, most of the lovelies and worthies painted by Müller-Ury are now forgotten.

Finally, even if Conrad were to gather up Uncle Adolfo's greatest works and present them to the public the chances are that we would reject them on stylistic grounds. We now judge Müller-Ury and his like against the Impressionists in the 1890s; against Cubism in the 1920s, and so on, and find them retrogressive.

The tale of Adolfo Felice Müller-Ury serves as a lesson to artists and collectors today. Unless, of course, Müller-Ury makes a comeback under Conrad's loving care. As fashion has already proved so fickle, who knows?

SCIENCE REPORT

A wide gaze at the stars

Astronomers making simultaneous use of 16 radio telescopes on three continents have been able to probe the cores of distant galaxies in unprecedented detail. The observations, reported today in *Nature*, set a new record for the observation of minute detail in distant objects.

The same technique, called Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI), also has applications closer to home; in another report in *Nature* this week, researchers in the United States describe the use of VLBI in measuring tiny wobbles in the earth's rotation with an accuracy of 5cm.

The first report describes the work of Norbert Bartel, of the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics, and his colleagues. They distinguished between points separated by an angular distance of just 100 arc-microseconds. This represents a considerable achievement, recording detail 10,000 times finer than the largest optical telescopes. Observa-

tions this detailed are possible because the radio dishes are separated by great distances and the resolution of a telescope is dictated by the width of its aperture. So by synchronizing 16 telescopes across the world, Bartel and colleagues have effectively made a single telescope with an aperture, or baseline, as wide as the earth. Detail is enhanced further by making observations at very short radio wavelengths.

The researchers concentrated on a bizarre object known as 3C84, singled out for special attention as one of the brightest objects at the 43,000 megahertz frequency in the northern sky. It may form the core of a galaxy called NGC1275, which at 261 million light years from earth is the brightest of the Perseus cluster of galaxies.

Now astronomers are becoming more ambitious. Peter Scheuer, of Cambridge University, envisages VLBI links between earth-based and satellite-mounted

radio telescopes with a potential baseline four times the diameter of the earth. And space researchers in the United States are thinking of baselines the size of 100 earth diameters which could be operational within 30 years.

Tiny wobbles in the earth's rotation are the subject of another report in *Nature*, by T.M. Eubanks, of the US Naval Observatory in Washington DC, and co-workers. From tiny discrepancies between the observations of two telescopes looking at the same point in space in a VLBI arrangement, the researchers have uncovered small wobbles in the earth's axis with a peak-to-peak variation of less than two hundredths of an arc second. These variations — a wobble of less than a metre — are believed to be caused by the movement of the atmosphere.

Henry Gee

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HEALTH

Thoughts for food

Do we have an unhealthy obsession with our diet? Ann Kent wonders if allergies are worth worrying about

Public anxiety about the food we eat has never been higher. We worry about the agricultural chemicals used to grow it, the additives put in during its manufacture, and finally about the effects of the food itself on our wellbeing. Such fears are likely to be fuelled even further by two events occurring today.

The London Food Commission's new book, *Food Additives and How to Beat It* (Unwin Paperbacks, £4.95), claims that the statutory watchdogs are asleep in their kennels. According to the commission, although vast quantities of chemicals are used in intensive farming procedures, only one food item in 100 million is tested for pesticides and other residues. Food controls come under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food but the commission is demanding a separate ministry of food, so that the interests of the consumer are clearly separated from those of the farmer.

The second event is the coming of age of what used to be a small exhibition on alternative health. In the course of one year it has doubled in size, outgrown its old quarters in Kensington, and is now a four-day event at Olympia. Significantly it has changed its title from the Alternative Medicine and Natural Living exhibition to a name which promises much more — Here's Health '88.

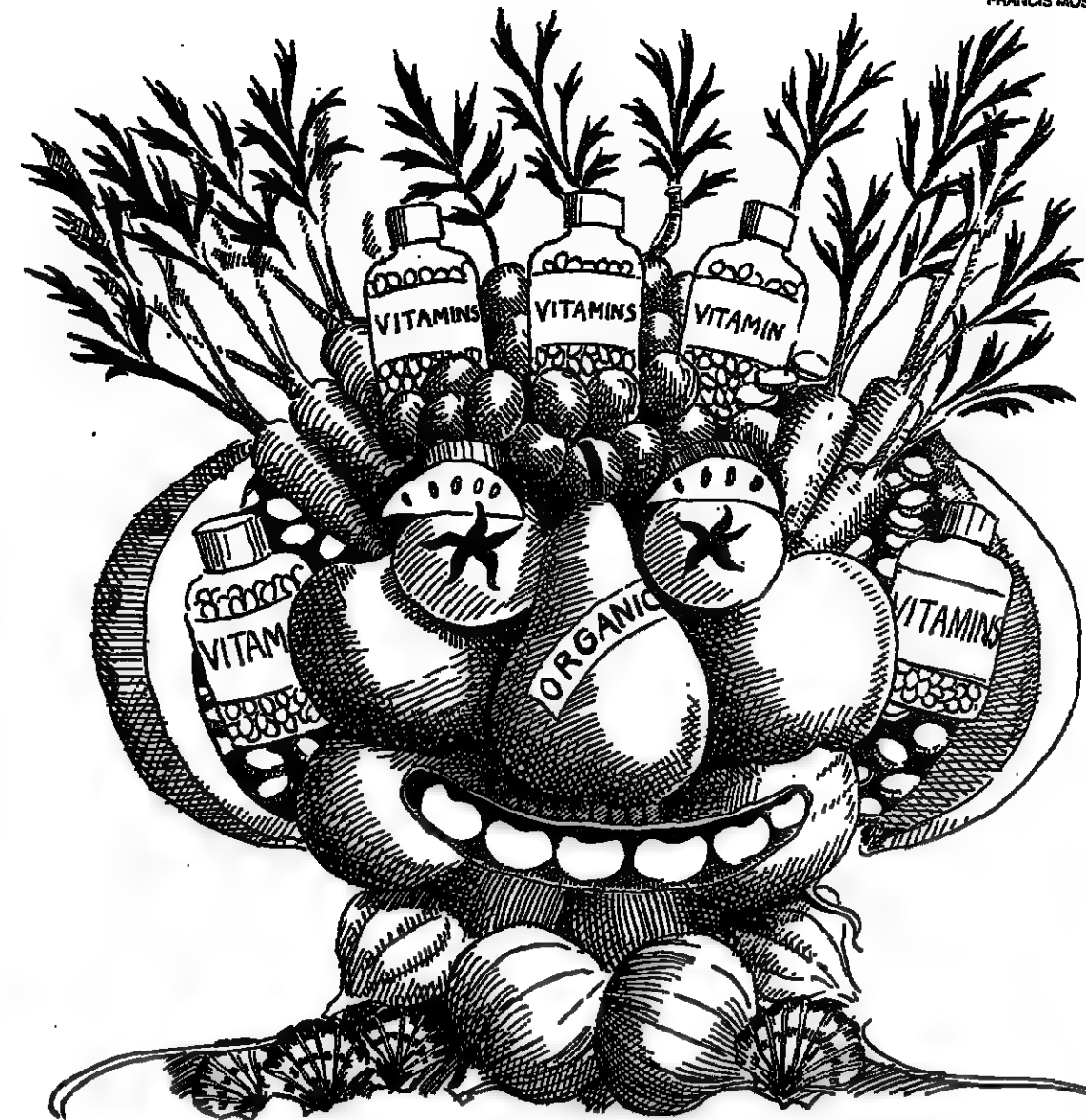
Many of the 228 exhibits address our anxieties about what food does and does not do for us. Here's Health '88 promotes organic foods for those who are worried about agrochemicals, while for those who want to leave something out of their diets, there are demonstrations of macrobiotic, vegan, carot, tolu and allergy cooking. If you feel that food, no matter how good, cannot fully meet your nutritional needs, there is every kind of vitamin and mineral pill, herbal product, ginseng, royal jelly and diet supplement.

Martin Hunt, the exhibition's organizer, explains: "In the past, we have been preaching to the converted. But now we are reaching a much wider audience. People are much more aware of the effects of drugs, insecticides and a host of pollutants on their health, and they want to take responsibility for their own wellbeing."

But is this awareness good for the public health? Adult preoccupations with wellbeing and longevity are being extended to children. Thus, alongside marigold therapy for foot complaints and self-healing with quartz crystals, the exhibition features natural medicines for children, aromatherapy for babies and children, advice on getting children off junk food, improving their IQs with vitamins, and demonstrations of "movement" for children.

The concern over nutrition is doing wonders for the food supplement industry, which is currently worth £91 million a year and growing fast.

One message which seems to be delivered with increasing enthusiasm is that environmental pollution increases our requirements for vitamins and minerals. Eric Bronner, one of the authors of the London Food Commission's book, admits to concern over such claims. "The idea that you can counter the effects of a pesticide with a vitamin or mineral is not proven. We want food which is not adulterated and which does not contain carcinogenic pesticides. The claims which are made for food supplements should certainly be scrutinized and controlled."



Many people, however, are comforted by the thought that supplements increase their resilience. After all, most of us cannot escape our environment, but we can afford the odd pound in the chemist's shop. But some doctors believe that a high price is being paid by those who latch on to food as the cause of their woes. They become convinced that they are allergic to most normal foods, and often spend far more than the cost of a food supplement in search of a cure.

"Allergy is a tremendous money spinner," says Dr Farveez Kumar, senior lecturer in gastroenterology at St Bartholomew's Hospital, who regularly sees patients who believe themselves allergic to foods. "Ten years ago the patients now visiting the allergy clinics would have been seeking the help of a psychiatrist. Now that is unfashionable, they are blaming all the ills of normal life on the food they eat. They visit a private allergy clinic, and then, when the money runs out, they come to me drastically underweight."

"Of course some people are genuinely allergic, like the ones who feel very ill soon after eating strawberries and shellfish. They very sensibly avoid those foods. And some people suffer from coeliac disease, and can't take gluten. But in the middle is a grey area where patients will clutch at anything. They are difficult to treat because they need something which we can't give

them." Kumar's views are, surprisingly enough, supported by one of the exhibitors at Here's Health '88, the cookery book author Rita Greer, who is demonstrating allergen-free food preparation. "A lot of these problems are in the imagination of the sufferer," she says.

"She is often a woman of about 45 whose children have grown up and gone away, who uses allergy as a kind of emotional blackmail to try and get some attention for herself. But although the cause may be psychosomatic, she is still ill and she still needs help. Allergy cooking has to be as nutritious as possible, and the average dietician finds this very hard to achieve."

Many children are now being brought to both private and NHS allergy clinics because their parents feel that food or environmental pollutants are causing behaviour problems. Dr Jean Monro is giving a lecture at Health '88 today on childhood allergies. Monro, co-author of the book *Chemical Children* and medical director of a private hospital for environmental illnesses in Hertfordshire, belongs to the new breed of allergy specialists known as clinical ecologists. They believe that allergic responses are to blame for medical problems ranging from depression and headaches to mood changes and even arthritis.

Much of Monro's talk will focus on hypersensitivity, which she believes is caused by food and additive allergies and chemical pollutants such as pesticides, chlorine, paint fumes and floor polishes.

Monro, a qualified medical practitioner who left the NHS in 1984,

says: "We are not only dealing with allergies, but also with sensitivities to low-level toxins in the environment and these are very much on the increase. I advise my patients to take vitamins because these act as antioxidants which counter the effects of pollution." She emphasizes that her work has been scientifically validated and says her patients are tested for allergies without being told which substances are being tested. Treatments are then tested against placebos in a situation where neither the doctor nor the patient knows what is being given.

But Dr Jan Kuzemko, a consultant paediatrician who runs an NHS allergy clinic for children in Peterborough and is the author of *Is Your Child Allergic?*, believes the condition is over-diagnosed. Harmless rashes and temporary coughs and snuffles are now being labelled as allergic responses by anxious parents, he says, and some children exploit their parents' anxieties about their food, behaviour and environment as a way of getting attention.

He insists that hypersensitivity is a very rare symptom of allergy. "What is usually happening is that the child is showing a variation of normal behaviour which the parent finds unacceptable."

"I see children who have already been to private clinics, who arrive with a long list of things which they can't eat or substances which they can't tolerate. Often they have been put on special diets and have shown an improvement for a few days, and then the symptoms come back."

"We haven't yet got perfect allergy tests, and some of the tests used in the private sector are very subjective indeed."

Load off their minds

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttard

Parents of children who have long-standing epilepsy have been worried this week by the problems facing Flora Keays and the thought that their child might have an undetected tumour. But as this is a possibility which doctors always consider, their anxieties are unnecessary. Tumour literally means a swelling, or a lump, so that although malignant cerebral tumours can cause epilepsy, it is a comparatively rare cause of it in children. The term tumour could also be used to describe many conditions other than cancer which might give rise to focal epilepsy — that is, epilepsy originating in an isolated damaged part of the brain.

Fortunately most cases of epilepsy can be

controlled by drugs but in the occasional case this is not possible, so that even though the number of fits is reduced the patient continues to have them. All major fits cause some reduction in the oxygen supply to the brain, albeit for a short time and therefore do some damage, however minimal. But if a patient has one fit after another this damage can be quite severe.

When epilepsy arises in some particular focus in the brain, the problem for the neurosurgeons is to decide whether to risk a difficult and damaging operation by endeavouring to cut out the focus, or to leave the patient with imperfectly controlled epilepsy and the likelihood of progressive brain damage.

Off the beach

Aids

New York residents have been barred from their favourite beaches following contamination by carelessly disposed hospital waste. They may have been less annoyed if they had read a recent report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* which showed that 5 per cent of patients attending an inner-city accident and emergency department were HIV positive. The main risk to any New Yorker who strayed on to the beach would be from pricking themselves with contaminated needles or other instruments, or by standing with cut feet on blood-contaminated dressings. Swimming would pose no threat.

Although America is some years ahead of Britain in the Aids epidemic we should not be too complacent. A little publicized report from St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, involved anonymous testing of 1,200 women attending its ante-natal clinic. (The women did not know their blood was going to be tested, but their serum was carefully processed so that no particular result could be related to any one patient.) It produced nine positive results: of the 800 white or Asian women, three were HIV positive. The three of the 144 black women gave their country of origin as being in Africa were HIV positive (one of them with HIV2, a related virus); two of the 167 black women born in the UK or Europe and one of the 89 from the Caribbean were HIV positive. A further testing of 1,000 women's serum, not divided by country of origin, gave confirmatory results.

Health care workers can be at risk from HIV positive patients, particularly when undiagnosed. In America there are now 11 known cases of health care workers being infected at work.

Health care workers can be at risk from HIV positive patients, particularly when undiagnosed. In America there are now 11 known cases of health care workers being infected at work.

Milk round

The DHSS is to

launch a campaign in the autumn to encourage breastfeeding, but one woman who needs no official encouragement is Mrs Sue Pearson, a 45-year-old housewife from Wick in West Sussex, who is happily lactating even though it is a bull mastiff puppy suckling at her breast and not a young Pearson. Mrs Pearson is suffering from galactorrhoea, a condition in which the

breasts secrete milk even

though she has not had any recent pregnancy. The cause is over-secretion by the pituitary gland of prolactin, the lactogenic hormone. Galactorrhoea is often due to a chromophobe adenoma, a benign tumour in the pituitary, but high levels of prolactin are also found in patients with thyroid disease (either under or over-activity), tumours of the adrenal glands or the testes, as well as those taking phenothiazines (major tranquillizers) or some of the morphine substitutes, including methadone. Men as well as women can suffer from galactorrhoea (men, too, can lactate) and in both sexes other symptoms are associated with it. Patients lose interest in sex; the men also become impotent, have a reduced sperm count and develop enlarged breasts; women have irregular periods.

In many cases no cause is found for a raised prolactin level; this is frequently so in one group of sufferers, the over-stressed businessman. Hyperprolactinaemia is an occasional reason why the busy tycoon loses his interest in sex: stress may have resulted in over-production of prolactin and it is this which sometimes removes his libido.

Avoiding stroke

Admirers of the

eccentric as well as dog lovers mourn the death of Barbara Woodhouse, who recently had a second stroke. Every five minutes somebody in the United Kingdom suffers a stroke, but as more than half occur in patients who, like Woodhouse, are over 75 and the majority of the rest over 60, there has been a tendency to dismiss strokes as an inevitable hazard of old age and underestimate the importance of preventive measures.

A stroke, technically known as a cerebral vascular accident (CVA), is due to the sudden cutting off of the blood supply to part of the brain, so damaging it that it is unable to function. There are three causes:

● The item last week about hysterectomies and ovarian cancer contained an inaccuracy. It implied that 10 per cent of women who had hysterectomies later developed ovarian cancer; obviously this was an absurdly high rate. The argument that women who have a hysterectomy should also have their ovaries removed is mainly, but by no means entirely, based on statistics which show that between 5 and 10 per cent of women who have ovarian cancer have previously had a hysterectomy. If they had had a slightly more complex operation their lives would not have been hazarded later. I apologise to any women who were unnecessarily worried.

Sharing the grief of a lost child

John Ashton, who watched his two-year-old son die, has helped form Britain's first NHS bereavement clinic

It is four years since John and Sue Ashton lost their two-year-old child, David, through cancer. They now have a four-month-old daughter, Sally, and an eight-year-old daughter, Jane, who has never stopped talking about David. The boy still has a special place in the family. When people ask about their children, John and Sue always reply: "We have two girls but we had a son."

John, a 37-year-old chartered surveyor from Chester, says: "We had tremendous support from staff and social workers right up to David's death and just a little bit beyond it. Then the help and support stopped, visits from health visitors ceased just when we needed it most."

Today, he is one of the parents behind a pioneering project to help anybody affected by the death of a child. When it opens this autumn in the grounds of Liverpool Children's Hospital in Alder Hey, the Alder Centre will offer a comprehensive and badly needed counselling service, the first of its kind in the country.

The project extends far beyond the support to parents

offered by existing groups. Brothers and sisters, grandparents, even nannies, will be offered counselling; doctors and nurses, often overlooked, will be given training and guidance too.

Helping medical staff cope with their grief is seen as an important service, because by helping them the counsellors will indirectly be helping the family. Junior doctors and nurses are often at a loss about how to react when a child dies, how to react when a child dies on their ward. They can now attend special training sessions to help them handle these delicate situations.

The centre, which has the support of the Liverpool Health Authority, has already raised £40,000 as the result of an appeal but a further £30,000 is needed to guarantee its continuation for more than two years. It is an extension of the work of the "Terminal Care and Bereavement Core Group" set up four years ago by a group of doctors, nurses, social workers and parents to examine how counselling could be improved. It is also a response to the horrific number of child deaths. Last year more than 140 children died at the two Liverpool children's



Daughter's delight: John and Sue Ashton, who lost their son David, with four-month-old Sally

hospitals, Alder Hey and Myrtle Street.

The Alder Centre will be set up as a kind of refuge, integrating all forms of counselling already in existence at the hospital. There will be self-help groups, individual counselling for those who need more specialist help, and group counselling where parents who have suffered a similar loss, whether cot death or terminal illness, are encouraged to talk through their problem in the company of a professional until the acute phase has passed. For the first time, affected brothers and sisters will be able to come together to share their feelings and experiences. There will also be a telephone help service, and advisers to help with the practical side of a

child's death — funeral arrangements, for example.

Donal Donnelly-Wood, a Malcolm Sargent social worker helping terminally ill children and their families, is one of the instigators of the scheme and hopes the centre will be looked on as a role model for other hospitals.

He is particularly pleased that the project will help the other children in the family. "Part of working with parents is talking about how their children react," he says. "So very quickly the conversation comes round to how the remaining children are coping. I can remember one baby dying of leukaemia in our unit, the older brother wasn't allowed in because the parents wanted to protect him. They then had a report from the

school that this child, who was normally very lovable and worked well, had suddenly become withdrawn and tearful."

"After this was explained to the parents, he was allowed to visit the brother a couple of times before the brother died. There was a dramatic improvement."

Being on the hospital site, Donnelly-Wood hopes the centre will provide an open door back to the hospital and to the ward where the child died. "We've had experience of parents who have walked up and down the pavement outside not actually having the courage to return to the ward. One father told me how some months after he lost his child, he forced himself to walk across the threshold of

the ward to the bed his son used to occupy.

"He needed to convince himself that the child was no longer there and that helped him come to terms with his death."

The way the news is broken could affect how the parents later cope with their bereavement according to paediatric registrar, Dr Robert Scott Jupp. "It's never easy, but you can do it badly or you can do it well and I think it's something we ought to get better at."

"There isn't a counselling service for doctors like myself anywhere and for the newly qualified doctor the experience can be horrendous, it can throw him into complete turmoil. The first child I came across who died, I was terribly upset for quite a long time afterwards."

"I didn't have any idea how to help the parents and I don't think I handled it very well. If you show you're upset it makes you less able to make rational decisions. But doctors do need counsellors who are not their colleagues to help them sort out their own personal feelings."

Sister Jenny Cottrell has had to suffer the loss of many of the cystic fibrosis children on her ward and would welcome this sort of support too. "I usually call a meeting of all the staff when a child dies, including the junior nurses who haven't been that involved. I might ask them — do you think anything more could have been done to save the child?"

"The old way of training nurses was to say never get involved, I think that changed, you've got to. You need to show you're human even if it means breaking down."

Barbara Lamb

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TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

In an otherwise pretty comprehensive roster of fringe crackpottery mustered for today's Kensington-by-election, the absence of an Anti-Carriage-Drive Tendency candidate strikes me as, quite frankly, astonishing. Is there no one in that hitherto maniacally conservative constituency prepared to cough up £500 for the opportunity of banging on publicly about the grisly despoliation of our heritage by loose chipping and reproduction urn?

Once, the plump bourgeois villas of Kensington and other pleasant inner suburbs were apined by green lawns girt with privet and punctuated by hydrangea bush and hybrid tea. But over the past few years these have been systematically replaced by oxblood-coloured tarmac forecourts horribly planted with polystyrene tube and BMWs. What makes this ruin especially irritating is that most of these large houses have garages so it is clearly not a question of necessary off-street parking. The question is clearly of display. The carriage-drive is not for carriage-driving on, it is for carriage-parking on. It is for sucking the 450SEL in, behind the Audi Estate, with the 944 Turbo bringing up the rear. This says more about you than geraniums ever can.

I have nothing against German iron-mongery, but it is not, God wot, a lovesome thing, and I am deeply disappointed that the caring folk of Kensington, who once campaigned so successfully against the bin-liner mountain, have not found a champion for this yet worthier cause.

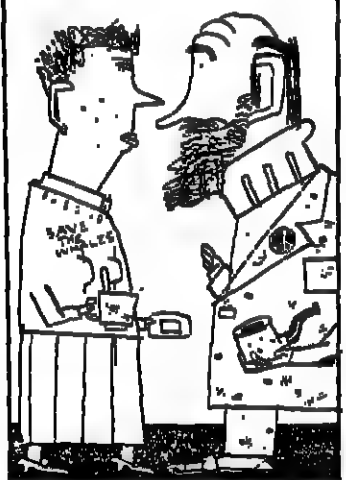
Still, the well-heeled do have their own special crosses to bear. More and more these days, I find myself having to disengage from fascinating conversations about the difficulty of finding decent plumbers in Antibes, or the gratifying boom in post-impressionist prices, and stroll outside for a breath of fresh air, so, puzzled by what I observe to be an unhappily increasing social hazard, I telephoned my dentist to inquire why it was that the rich appeared to be developing bad breath.

"Jacket crowns," he said instantly. "Aha," I said as if I understood. "Yes," he said, as if he guessed I didn't. "Twenty years ago, there was, among those who could afford it, a vogue for full mouth reconstruction. They paid £5,000, and we rebuilt their heads. We filed their existing teeth to pegs, and we fitted impeccable surrogates in their place."

"Hardly impeccable," I countered, "if the net effect was halitosis capable of de-scaling a kettle at fifty paces." "Not our fault," he snapped. "Patients were warned that unless they were assiduous in cleaning their prostheses where they joined the gum, the long-term prognosis indicated periodontal decay. That, I am afraid, is what is now happening. It must be very worrying for them."

"Uncasy lies the head that wears a crown," I murmured. "I don't find that even mildly amusing," he said.

BARRY FANTONI



'Dave' depressed. He's caught between booking a cheap holiday in Turkey and going on an Evren demo

Like many people who did not, at a critical stage in their lives, seize the opportunity to toss a few essentials into a carpet-bag, ship aboard a rusting scow, and head for a satisfying career combing the beaches of Tahiti, I find myself, today, attending lots of business meetings.

Since it would obviously be ungraciousness itself to make this plea specifically and face-to-face, may I suggest generally, and in the public interest, that a current buzz-phrase be dropped from the executive lexicon before someone sitting opposite me gets felled with a Perrier bottle.

The phrase is, "I hear what you say." Its sub-text (hidden agenda?) is, of course, anything from "but it is a load of codswallop" to "and I intend doing sod-all about it". I should normally have let it die a natural death, as such bits of tacky gobbledegook are prone to do, had I not been at a media-folk meeting last week when one man said "I hear what you say" to the man next to him, and the man next to him thought for a bit, and replied "I heard what you say" back. It was then that I decided something had to be done.

Lumbering athletically about the tennis court on Monday, I noticed that my backhand had suddenly become even more unpredictable, in that whenever I played the shot I shrieked in agony and dropped my racket. However, since the membership of my club is of a vintage which spends most of its sporting life in traction, names of reliable physiotherapists were being shouted across the green sward even as I crumpled. I hobbled home, changed, selected the nearest address — which just happened to be in Wigmore Street and hailed a cab.

He pulled up outside an Edwardian mansion block. "Would you mind waiting?" I said. "I shan't be long."

He looked at me. I pressed the brass bell push, and an unnecessarily stunning girl in a white frock opened the door. After about 20 minutes of pummeling and ultrasound, she let me out again.

"Anyone famous in today?" said the cabdriver. "What?" "Polo players, Frank Bough, catch my drift?" "I've hurt my arm," I said, coldly. "Doesn't surprise me," he said, and let in the clutch.

Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountain region deep in the trans-Caucasus, with a population of fewer than 200,000, has precipitated the most delicate constitutional crisis the Soviet Union has known. It has also presented Mr Gorbachev with a problem in which every solution he grasps has to be wrong.

On Tuesday, the five-month dispute about who should administer Nagorno-Karabakh reached a new impasse when the region's governing soviet issued a unilateral declaration of independence. It asked the central government in Moscow to change the region's name to the Artsakh autonomous region of Armenia and announced its intention of effecting the region's secession from the republic of Azerbaijan and its transfer to Armenian jurisdiction.

Immediately, the government of the Republic of Armenia, of which Nagorno-Karabakh is territorially and administratively a part, met in emergency session to pronounce the declaration unconstitutional and so null and void. The region's future is now to be decided by the USSR Supreme Soviet in Moscow.

Taken by itself, the declaration of independence by Nagorno-Karabakh can be little more than an expression of exasperation that none of the region's requests to be transferred to Armenia has yet been

Mary Dejevsky on a local dispute that has become a crisis for Russia

Minefield in the Caucasus

heeded. The region does not have the power to put its declaration into practice. Unpalatable though this is to the 75 per cent of the region's population who are ethnic Armenians, Azerbaijan has the economic clout and the constitutional right to thwart their ambitions.

If the dispute had involved only Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan, the authorities in Moscow might have been tempted to let the protest exhaust itself. Subsidizing a region which is on indefinite strike — and has been since February — is expensive, but if part of the argument is about living standards (which it initially was), the solution was bound to cost money. Moscow's first response was to offer money. It blamed Azerbaijan for the backwardness of Nagorno-Karabakh, and recommended bread in the shape of better supplies, and circuses in the form of Armenian television programmes.

By then, however, the focus of the dispute was no longer money — if it had ever been. It was a

question of national autonomy and the right of a national group to self-determination. It had also become a dispute not only between Nagorno-Karabakh and the republic of Azerbaijan — which could arguably be regarded as an internal republic matter — but a dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia, two neighbouring constituent republics of the Soviet Union. The fact that most Armenians are Christian and most Azerbaijanis Muslim added a religious and cultural aspect which complicated matters still further.

In trying to find an acceptable solution, Moscow is hamstrung by the irreconcilability of the demands being made. Any concession to one side will automatically be seen as a defeat by the other. If the USSR Supreme Soviet decides that Nagorno-Karabakh should remain territorially part of Azerbaijan, with no more than extra subsidies to console its Armenian population, this will alienate most people in the republic of Armenia which is a relatively pros-

perous and successful republic. If, though this looks unlikely, Moscow decides that Nagorno-Karabakh should be transferred to Armenia, by virtue of its ethnic composition, Azerbaijan will be outraged. Worse, from Moscow's point of view, is that ethnic enclaves in other Soviet republics would cite Nagorno-Karabakh as a precedent for their case to be considered as well. The knock-on effect of any agreement by Moscow to the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh is the strongest card Azerbaijan holds.

The possibility of secession — a word that has been steadfastly avoided in official Soviet reports of the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis — would also fuel the ambition of whole republics for more autonomy. The three Baltic states would be among the first to exploit any hint that secession — a right enshrined in the USSR constitution — exists in practice as well as theory.

Unlike the simmering nationalism in the Baltic states, the dispute in the Caucasus has

nothing to do with alleged Russification. If anything, however, this makes it more difficult for Moscow to solve. The heavy hand from Moscow, in the form of central intervention — military or otherwise — will only attract the opprobrium of both sides to Moscow. There was a foretaste of this ten days ago when Soviet interior ministry troops trying to break a two-day blockade of Yerevan airport were attacked by protesters.

Armenia has suggested a number of options which would allow the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan but stop short of its incorporation into Armenia. It says the region could be governed either by the USSR government direct from Moscow, or by the government of the Russian Federation, or it might be incorporated into the Caucasian region of Stavropol, which is Mr Gorbachev's home region and part of the Russian Federation.

While any of these options might seem to Armenia to be a concession, to Azerbaijan they

all imply a loss of territory, and defeat. The USSR Supreme Soviet might consider direct rule from Moscow as a temporary measure, but Azerbaijan would want strict assurances before it would find that acceptable.

In Moscow, outside party and government circles, the ethnic dispute in the Caucasus has been regarded as a local dispute of little national interest. Three weeks ago, before the latest wave of strikes in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh's declaration of independence, I heard a young Armenian and his Muscovite girlfriend discussing the dispute. She was dismissive, seeing it as just another example of the fiery southern temperament. He was insulted by her offhand attitude.

To him, a well-educated young manager, the fate of Nagorno-Karabakh has become a matter of national and personal pride. His awakened nationalist passion is matched by the equally staunch nationalism of his contemporaries in Azerbaijan, and that of their contemporaries in the other "minority" areas of the Soviet Union. These — the young, the educated and the people Mr Gorbachev needs for his modernization programme. They are also the people whose support he stands to lose — in their thousands and tens of thousands — however he proceeds in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Bernard Levin

Socialism's farewell



of jobs for all. The *People's Daily* claimed that up to 30 million of the total urban labour force of 130 million had nothing to do and passed time at work playing poker or chess, watching television or racing on bicycles. It said that this army of the underemployed cost the state up to 60 billion yuan (\$8.9 billion) a year in wages and benefits, equal to half of what the treasury received in taxes and profits from state-owned industries. Gross overstaffing led to low efficiency and made for a nation of slackers.

Well, wouldn't you think that must be the work of a drunken sub-editor under notice? My casual distinction between Soviet Thatcherism and Chinese Adam Smithism is more real than I had realized, for the Prime Minister would never have said such things even in her angriest and most pessimistic moments at the outset of her own crusade and would hardly even have thought them. But for the Chinese rulers to describe the whole of China in terms which remind us of British Leyland at its worst, all those years ago, suggests that the days of earthquakes are not yet over.

Some of the details, of course, strike a genuinely comic note, reinforcing the hallucinatory quality of the whole affair: for under-employed Chinese slackers to spend their time watching television is hardly surprising, though I doubt if Chinese television is a riot of fun from morning to night, and chess would doubtless appeal to the more cerebral of the lead-swingers, but poker must be about as un-Chinese a pastime as could be imagined, and bicycle-racing to while away the superfluous hours strains credulity.

But when the laughter has died down, a serious note can be heard. My mention of the IEA and its warriors was not just plucked from the air, what that organization and its associated bodies deal in is reality. The whole corpus of their work, the heart of which is the *World Bank*, has always been directed

to establishing such propositions as that water does not run uphill, that Wednesday has never been found between Saturday and Sunday, that not even the most skillful weaver can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, and above all that nothing, but bewilderment, pain and failure await those *qui cherchent midi à quatorze heures*. And it seems that the Chinese authorities have finally been convinced of these surprising but important truths.

The Chinese are no more keen than Mr Gorbachev to announce that socialism is a recipe for nothing but beggary, what words they wrap that truth in, however, are unimportant. What matters is that they should face

reality. But what is the reality that they have at last come to face? It is that the only road to efficiency and prosperity (and, incidentally, freedom, but that is another theme for another day) is the liberation of the individual to strive for himself and his family. The single most telling fact I ever learned about the Soviet Union was that although only three per cent of all farming was private, the three per cent turned out 40 per cent of all production. And for all I know the ratio may be even more extreme by now.

The Chinese rulers are not, or not yet, talking about individual enterprise. But if a state economy is said, in such stark terms,

to be so inefficient that a quarter of the workforce is superfluous, there can only be one road out of the trap.

It is important to recognize that although such news out of China is astonishing, the free world has been moving unseasonably, in the same direction for a long time. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the other day, foretold the privatization of the very last of the nationalized concerns, it came hardly a flurry, let alone thunderbolt.

I recall that when M Mitterrand was first elected President of France I feared not only for the French economy, which can do what it likes as far as I am

concerned if it doesn't harm M Pic, but also for Nato. Yet from the start, M Mitterrand has been as staunch in NATO's defence as Britain has, and even more than Germany, more to the point of my theme, he embarked on a series of Socialist economic measures which nearly destroyed his country, then abandoned them all overnight and got on instead with policies that worked. And it is certainly not only Britain, France and the United States that are abandoning dirigisme for the recognition of market forces and the encouragement of enterprise based on that recognition; the tide has flowed (via South Korea and Taiwan) as far as the Antipodes, where the Hawke and Lange governments are called Labour, but the policies are as Tory as even Madame would wish. Even some of our own hopeless Labour Party, with its hopeless leader, have seen reality, though whether Mr Ron Todd will permit them to describe what they have seen is still not known.

The end of socialism has been often prophesied, not least by me. But the present time seems more propitious than ever for the burial. I cannot remember which General Election had "Set the People Free" as the Conservative battle-cry, but it was a very long time ago, and the result certainly didn't free any of the people. We are still too close to Mrs Thatcher's revolution, which in my case is not yet nearly finished, to give it its true place in the international flotilla that caught the tide. But for once we can seek our exemplar in an exotic quarter. When it is officially announced in China that 30 million workers out of 130 are not needed, and that they are ruining the country by receiving wages and benefits and doing nothing in return, and that such over-staffing is the cause of inefficiency, and that unemployment is good for the economy — why, then, I think, it is time that skilled epitaph-writers were invited to compose socialism's farewell. But of course the commission would have to be subject to properly competitive tendering.

Commentary • WOODROW WYATT

When seconds count

Commander Glenn Brindel was captain of the US frigate *Stark*. In May last year, while on patrol in the Gulf, an Iraqi aircraft was sighted approaching his ship. Commander Brindel had only a second or so to decide whether to bring it down. He hesitated. Missiles struck the ship, killing 37 sailors and ending his naval career.

When an Iranian Airbus was sighted approaching the US warship *Vincennes* Captain Will Rogers had to make his split-second decision. The aircraft had not responded to seven demands for identification. The *Vincennes* was in an area where it had just been fighting Iranian gunboats after an Iranian attack on a Norwegian merchant ship the night before. Captain Rogers rapidly decided not to risk the difference between an Airbus and an Iranian military aircraft in the brief moment he had before making his decision. The Iranians knew there was fighting in the area yet they let the Airbus take off. It was like sending an Imperial Airways passenger plane over Dover during a Battle of Britain dogfight.

Because of the incident some in America query the validity of the US presence in the Gulf. Others elsewhere have once

more asked that peace-keeping in the Gulf should be conducted by a United Nations fleet. If that happened, command and control would be impossible and Iranian attacks on peaceful shipping would mount. The US navy is right to be there along with warships from Britain and other countries. The Iranians are the main culprits in attacks on tankers and other merchant ships, with subsequent loss of life, and must take the blame for the ghastly mistakes which may happen in an area they have made so dangerous.

In democracies second guessing of the man on the spot is an ancient habit. There are always those, pondering at leisure, who say they would have acted differently, though they have no notion of the speed with which a decision had to be taken and the prevailing conditions. Inquiries are spawned to unravel who did what and why he did not do something else. If some essential secrecy is involved there is a clamour for all the secrets to be revealed.

On March 6, in Gibraltar, three IRA terrorists were shot dead; a fourth was never found. Seven SAS soldiers were involved. Work by the Spanish authorities, in co-operation with the Gibraltar police, had revealed an IRA plot to detonate a car bomb at the end of a guard-mounting parade by the Royal Anglian Regiment, which had recently been in Northern Ireland. The ceremony was to be in a confined space near a school

and an old people's home. There would have been many spectators, including children. Scores of civilians would have been killed or maimed as well as soldiers.

The surveillance on both sides of the Gibraltar border had been so good that the identity of the terrorists was known, as were the details of their plot. After they were shot the IRA made no complaint, proudly describing the three killed as being "on active service".

Those who consider themselves to be on active service know the risk they run of being killed, and IRA terrorists are totally reckless about how many victims they kill. The slaughter at the Enniskillen Armistice Day service is sufficient evidence of that, though the memory of it is already fading. No doubt if the perpetrators of that massacre had been identified and shot before they were able to complete their devil's work there would have been vociferous demands for an inquiry as to why they had not been politely arrested and tried.

The problem the SAS had in Gibraltar was that they did not know precisely where the explosives were, though they were discovered later, and what method of remote or other detonation would be used. They saw three of the terrorists and took no chances. Suppose they had hesitated and all the terrorists had got away and managed to set off the bomb. Then there would have been an outcry that

the SAS had failed in their duty. To be useful, the SAS, to whom the Irishmen owe gratitude for the rescue of hostages in their London embassy, must be anonymous and not readily identifiable. If they are not, not only would their own lives be at risk but the lives of those who are saved by their prompt and efficient action. The mere mention of secrecy in Britain excites demands by the media and many politicians to be told everything.

Mr Felix Pizzarello, the Gibraltar coroner, wants the seven SAS soldiers to attend the inquest on September 5. He will not allow them anonymity from the jury or the lawyers, including those representing the terrorists' families. IRA pressure on those who saw the SAS men to describe them, or in other ways reveal their identity, would be intense. They could easily be victims of the IRA; their cover for anti-terrorist activities would certainly be blown.

The SAS soldiers have been told by the Government they need not attend the inquest if they do not wish to. They should stay at home. All the inquest needs to do is to record that three IRA terrorists on a murder mission, and described by the IRA as "on active service", were killed. Probing into the hows and wherefores must weaken the anti-terrorist campaign. It would also weaken the resolution of men anywhere who have to make split-second decisions and who might hesitate and make the wrong one.

JUNE 14

ON THIS DAY

1908



It was during these Olympic Games that the frail but indomitable marathon runner, Dorando Pietri of Italy, re-entered the stadium in the lead, turned in the wrong direction, collapsed, and was mistakenly helped up by officials. He lost the race.

THE KING AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

There is no one living more fitted to pen and in one sense preside over the fourth Olympiad than King Edward the Peace-maker, just as there is no more suitable arena for the games than the capital of the country which in field sports has been the favourite of the other nations. It cannot but make for the prospects of the world's peace that 19 of the world's civilized States should meet in the friendly rivalry of the simplest and cleanest form of sport.

London awoke on Monday morning to the sound of rain heavy and so incessant that there seemed grounds for hope that long before the hour appointed for the opening of the proceedings, the clouds would have melted themselves away, and the roadway through the Exhibition grounds rapidly turned into a sea of liquid mud.

The effect of the procession [of athletes] was to a certain extent marred by the fact that several of the competitors appeared in multi. This was the case with the first three nationalities that passed before the Royal box, and the Danes, who were placed

fourth in the march past, were the first to make a really brave show. In front was a squad of girls, dressed in white skirts and costly yellow stockings, and the men gymnasts and athletes... The French, some dressed in blue serge, some in white with white peaked caps, and the Dutch, some of them in blue uniforms, rather like our postmen's, others in red, white and blue jerseys, and others, especially strong looking, in black jerseys and shorts, were being exceedingly workmanlike. The Italians, in straw hats, black coats, and white knickerbockers, were very neat, and so were the Norwegians, some all in white, others looking like volunteers in uniforms of grey. Half-a-dozen officers, in full uniform and cocked hats, marched at the head of the Swedish contingent. A splendid body of athletes. Next came the Finns, in white with blue sashes...

The United States representatives, who were preceded by a gentleman in a frock coat and top hat, were wearing ordinary clothes and caps with badges, but that did not prevent their being received with shouts of general applause, punctuated by the college yells with which the visits of Harvard and Yale athletes have been greeted since the first American came the Austrians, few but fit, mostly in shorts and green and black jerseys; the Canadians, also not very numerous, in white coats, trousers, and caps, and the South Africans, in black jerseys, knickerbockers, and caps, with yellow. Our own representatives, of course, much the largest body of athletes, were headed by about a dozen Oxford and Cambridge "blues" in their light and dark blue coats and running-shorts...

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MILDNESS OF MARRE

The report of the Marre committee is the response of the legal profession to the Government's wish to see market forces operating more freely in the supply of professional services. The committee's parents were the Law Society and the Bar Council, a combination of entrenched interest groups which produced strengths and handicaps, both of which are visible in its final recommendations.

Its strength was that any recommendations that did not carry the twin professions with them would be hard even for this Government to impose. Its weakness was its lack of adventure. It tended to arbitrate between barristers and solicitors where they differed, not to challenge them when they agreed.

For example, on its major recommendation — that suitably "licensed" solicitors should be allowed rights of audience in the Crown Court — it offers no analysis of arguments in favour or against the extension of this right to the High Court or the Court of Appeal. The Law Society declared in its submission to the committee that solicitors should have unlimited rights of audience in all courts; but the question was not pressed.

The tone of the report is comfortable and conservative. Thus it concludes without argument that the work of legal advice agencies should be seen as complementary to the advice of a solicitor rather than a substitute for it. Its judicious arbitration between solicitors and the Bar showed a committee that was anxious, probably too anxious, not to generate a minority report. In the case of the Crown Court recommendation it was unsuccessful in this respect. All of the barrister members of the committee declared themselves against any such extension of solicitors' rights.

None the less the Marre committee has produced a number of significant and welcome proposals. The proposal to extend the right of solicitors to appear in Crown Courts is one, even though it is attended by the imposition of yet another restrictive practice, the establishment of a "Rights of Audience Board" which would examine solicitors (but not barristers) for their competence to plead. Two solicitors on the committee had the good sense to oppose this proposition insisting that they were trying to liberalize the current rules not introduce further restrictions.

There was also dissent when a majority of the independent members expressed the view that there should be complete general access to

the advice of a barrister without the necessity of approaching a solicitor first. In this they were opposed by both arms of the profession. The committee restricted itself to endorsing unanimously the idea that other professionals — accountants, surveyors and the like — should have direct access.

General direct access would, it was argued, involve a total reconstruction of a barrister's working life. It would bring the need to hire additional staff to receive and filter the litigious, and involve him or her in time-wasting analysis of issues which ought to have been sorted out by a solicitor.

The committee itself, however, points out a useful analogy with the medical profession, in which, although the public does have direct access to a specialist if it wishes, the vast majority of patients still prefer to go through a general practitioner. Many people would take the analogy still further and insist that when a patient is referred to a specialist the general practitioner does not accompany him to the consulting room. In the same way there is no universal need for the solicitor to accompany a client to a barrister's chambers — sometimes doubling the costs.

One of its most interesting recommendations concerns the extension of parliamentary supervision of the legal system. When the present system of select committees was initiated no committee was given the task of overseeing the Lord Chancellor's department. That was thought to smack of parliamentary interference with an independent judiciary.

In examining the legal aid system, however, the committee — anxious to be seen keen to extract value for public expenditure — considered a complete reorganization of the Lord Chancellor's department and the creation of a Ministry of Justice. In the end, it turned away from such radicalism, but the report now persuasively urges that a select committee of the Commons be given the job of monitoring legal aid and the provision of public funds for legal services.

Among other sensible moves, the committee points out the anomalies in the right of solicitors to become High Court judges. It rightly endorses the Law Society's recommendation that solicitors should be eligible for appointment. Lady Marre has coaxed from her team a report which, although some may see it as too mild, recommends a number of useful steps forward.

CHARLOTTE CHAMBERS, Chairman, Association for Management Education and Development, Premier House, 77 Oxford Street, W1.

BACK TO SCHOOL

All in all it has been a good seven days for parent power. The success of a group of Derbyshire parents in blocking the merger of two comprehensive schools was followed by yesterday's victory for the Dewsbury parents who were happier that their children be taught in a pub than at a predominantly Asian school.

But after the champagne corks have popped in the Thornhill Lees Hotel — now returned exclusively to its usual business — it is as well to take a calmer look at the High Court settlement agreed yesterday between the parents and Kirkless Metropolitan Council. Now is not the time for gloating triumphalism; nor for the prophets of educational doom to predict endless court cases disrupting the country's schools while irresponsible parents fight for unreasonable rights.

With the council and the parents still accusing the other of racial bias — the ingredient which marked out this particular dispute from other parent-authority arguments and which may have led Mr Kenneth Baker to keep well away from it — Lord Justice Glidwell made it clear that the court was not going to rule on this. Nor was he to rule on the other claims from the parents concerning the teaching of Christianity at Headfield Church of England school.

Kirkless conceded the parents' case on the grounds that there had been a technical irregularity in not publishing school admission policies. A victory for a principle has been won on a technicality. Twelve months of acrimony, with 22 children deprived of the benefits of an ordinary school environment, have happened because somebody forgot to follow the rules.

The situation in Dewsbury was always going to be sensitive. It demanded that officials dealing with the parents made doubly sure that at least the paper-work was in order: a lesson that should be learnt by the country's other local education authorities as they grapple with the changes forced on them in the Education Reform Bill which will become law at the end of this month.

Among the many clauses designed quite properly to give the schools back to the parents is the open enrolment policy which, wherever possible, will allow parents to choose the school they want for the children rather than relying on bureaucratic whim. From September schools will be obliged to take children up to a maximum number set in most cases at the 1975 levels when school rolls were at their highest.

Until now some local education authorities, often to protect less popular schools, have set lower limits. Had the reforms been in place last year it is probable that the Dewsbury dispute would have been avoided, but there will inevitably still be arguments between dissatisfied parents and unhelpful local authorities.

Only tact, care and meticulous attention to detail will ensure that unnecessary unpleasantness like that at Dewsbury can be avoided. There will be no place for political dogma or the belief that the town hall bureaucrats know what is best for the country's children. Much of the power to determine their children's future will be returned to the parents. If a few misuse it, that does not invalidate these welcome reforms.

POOR PLAY BY ORTEGA

Less than six months after cutting off US military aid to the Contras in Nicaragua, a number of Congressmen would now like to start it up again. If they succeed, President Ortega who leads the Sandinista Government in Managua, will have only himself to blame.

Relations between the two countries went from bad to worse this week as diplomats and recriminations flew angrily to and fro between their capitals. Unless they can be repaired within a month or two, the Central American peace plan, conceived last year, will lie in tatters. The Nobel prize it won for its progenitor, President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, will be proved premature.

The plan reached its first main objective late in March when the Sandinistas and the Contras agreed a ceasefire. But expediency always seemed to play as big a part in this as always genuine commitment to a settlement. The early collapse of the subsequent peace talks only confirmed the fragile nature of their truce.

Events this week would seem also to confirm the frailty of Senator Ortega's reform programme. Coaxed in the direction of press freedom and political democracy, he abruptly moved against his critics at the weekend, closing *La Prensa* newspaper and *Radio Catolica* and arresting several opposition leaders. Finally, he expelled the American ambassador and seven of his staff — accusing them of plotting against his Government. It was, said Mr Schultz, the United States Secretary of State, "an outrage."

It was certainly unwise for several reasons. In the first place, it has damaged his regional credibility. The concessions he made last year on human rights were greeted with proper scepticism by his critics. None the less, they

encouraged his neighbours and helped to persuade Congressional liberals to vote against military aid for the Contras. It seemed just possible that President Ortega, beset by economic problems and blessed with few friends, had chosen the path towards peace and compromise. He will now have to try rather harder to persuade the world once again of his sincerity.

In the second place, he has lost any chance of taking the inducements offered by the Reagan Government. Following the breakdown of the peace talks, the Administration let it be known that it was reaching for both carrot and stick (aid on the one hand, a diplomatic offensive on the other) to prompt a return to the negotiating table. With their ambassadors now expelled, however, and relations between them almost at breaking point, it is hard to see many carrots now being offered.

Whether Congress will go so far as to put military aid back into the programme for the Contras remains to be seen. But the Contras' call for \$30 million to buy anti-aircraft rockets and replenish their depleted ammunition stocks looks less forlorn than it did a week ago.

No doubt Senator Ortega felt relatively safe because of November's election in America. Mr Dukakis, still comfortably ahead in the opinion polls, has been fiercely critical of US policy in Central America. But he has now chosen a conservative running mate whose views on the Sandinistas are much more realistic. Neither a Dukakis nor a Bush administration would take as hard a line as President Reagan. But neither would prove a soft touch if Ortega abandoned all pretence at being a democrat — or threatened US interests in the region.

Developing skills of managers

From Mrs Charlotte Chambers
Sir, Your article, "Qualifying for a new status" (Horizons, July 7), gave a comprehensive account of the initiatives by the Council for Management Education and Development to encourage British businesses to improve their commitment to developing managers.

My association, which represents personnel and training executives in industry and the public sector, management consultants and academics, wholeheartedly supports these moves to develop a code of practice to improve standards of management and business skills.

The article failed, however, to take account of the serious concern which is being voiced in management circles about the creation of a chartered institute and the related issue of a formal qualification for managers.

It is widely believed that another institute with such wide-ranging award-monitoring power could easily become a bureaucratic monster. The feasibility of establishing a common list of managerial competences as a means of qualifying managers' performance is also being seriously questioned both because insufficient research has been conducted in this area and because of the enormous variety of contexts within which managers operate.

Our association believes that the rigidity and formality inherent in the creation of an institute and qualification will not solve the problem of lagged investment in management development. Indeed, this approach could well alienate the vast majority of British enterprises which have been criticised in recent reports and which we should be encouraging to emulate the progressive practice exemplified by Shell, NatWest, Unilever and others.

Surely the more effective way to create change is to encourage and educate managers themselves to be discriminating about the quality of development they are offered and to enter into a personal learning agreement with their employers.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLOTTE CHAMBERS, Chairman, Association for Management Education and Development, Premier House, 77 Oxford Street, W1.

Lost in translation

From Mr K. C. E. Ellison Davis
Sir, Sir George Bell's asks (July 5) when "Shame on" gave way to "Evil be" in the translation of the Garter motto, MacDonnell's Dictionary of Quotations, published in London in 1822, renders it as "Evil be to him that evil thinks".

Personally, I have always liked Sir Ivon De La Bère's 1964 version, "Dishonoured be he who thinks evil of it", but it seemed not to catch on.

Sir George's question recalls to mind the variant adopted by a Duke of Orleans, who caused to be inscribed over his stables, *Honi soit qui mal y pense*. His groans no doubt got the message.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH ELLISON DAVIS, Brahm's Straat 2, 1077 HC Amsterdam, The Netherlands, July 6.

Missing washer

From Miss Mary E. Jelley
Sir, I own a robust brass foot-pump, presented to me in its mired wooden box about 25 or so years ago. It has been rendered useless, just for the want of its cup-shaped leather washer, a mere threepenny item when the pump was new.

My letter, with quoted number, to the Sheffield maker was returned to me marked "gone away".

After a fruitless search I am told on all sides, and with special glee by those who sell today's version of foot-pumps with their plastic washers, that I had much better throw away my valuable pump.

Why should such brutal waste be looked upon as "good business"? Yours truly,

MARY E. JELLEY, The Shepherd's Cottage, Chute, via Andover, Hampshire, July 4.

Lessons of Cleveland

From Dr Neville Davis
Sir, Doctors who are called upon to examine alleged victims of assault, child or adult, sexual or otherwise, should know what to look for, recognise what they see, draw reasonable conclusions from their observations and be able to communicate their findings to lay agencies and the court in a manner which is both understandable and unambiguous. They should also have available to them an authoritative body of literature based on careful observation and careful description of a significant number of cases from a significant number of centres.

Failure to meet these requirements is by no means uncommon, and we are now familiar with the results. Society is becoming ever more violent, and the need for a sound medical input to any investigation team is now self-

Hard choices on road from Synod

From the Reverend Alan Cooke
Sir, Your leader today ("Hard road from the Synod", July 7) exhorts those of us who question the General Synod's competence to alter the hitherto invariable practice of the universal Church to be good sports and kindly to make less noise.

Let us imagine for a moment that the eventual result of the debate is that women are not ordained as priests. Is a split anticipated then? Have over 1,000 clergymen publicly stated that they would not be able to continue in the Church of England under such circumstances? Do the proposals contain any hint of compensation for them? No, Sir, it is the ordination of women which will cause the wound, not their non-ordination.

The last paragraph of your leader ventures to hope that the foundations of Anglican belief will become clearer through the present controversy. Given the liberalism of many of the principal proponents of this novelty, I fear that if it is implemented the foundation of Anglican belief will be revealed as an indifference to scripture and the Church's consistent tradition, and a firm belief in the competence of the General Synod to do anything it likes.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN COOKE, The Vicarage, Milne Street, Chadderton, Oldham, Lancashire, July 7.

From Mr Oswald W. H. Clark
Sir, Those who drafted the legislation to enable women to be ordained to the priesthood prudently, and, yes, charitably, allowed diocesan bishops "to opt out." They also refrained from imposing a time-limit on the proposed safeguards. As a root and branch opponent, I gratefully acknowledge this.

If in the ensuing revision stage, the Archbishop of Canterbury (or

the House of Bishops corporately) seeks, by amendment and with your endorsement (July 7), to revert to some of the more draconian suggestions in an earlier bishops' report, the "road from the Synod" will become even "harder."

Any such actions can only increase the level of opposition from those who will not be excluded from the Church of England by episcopal "diklat" and from those who will not allow us to be so excluded.

Even without this archiepiscopal aggravation, it is already beyond dispute that this ordination proposal does not command in any House of the Synod the level of support necessary to give it final approval. On the precedent of the abortive Women Ordained Abroad Measure (which the Archbishop confrontationally wishes to reactivate), the proposal recently given general approval has at the same time been given the procedural "kiss of death."

Notwithstanding a Synod general election in 1990, it would be both dangerous and cruel to allow any other expectation to develop. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, OSWALD W. H. CLARK, 8 Courtlands Avenue, Hampton, Middlesex, July 8.

From the Reverend George Coppin
Sir, I do hope that the Church of England is sufficiently mature that it need not resort to the principle suggested in your leader that "churchmen, including bishops, who have not been prepared to conform have had to leave." If such a principle is to be taken seriously, surely it would be equally wise to heed the Clown who advised Maria in *Twelfth Night* that "many a good hanging prevents a bad marriage." I am, Sir, yours faithfully, GEORGE COPPIN, St John's Vicarage, 16 The Broadway, Kidlington, Oxford, July 7.

Turkish visit

From Mr Anthony Coombs, MP for Wyre Forest (Conservative)
Sir, Following Mrs Thatcher's visit in April, the fact that President Evren of Turkey is in Britain this week reflects the recent improvement in relationships with a country which is both of strategic importance to Nato and in a pivotal position between the European and Islamic worlds. Turkey's application for EEC membership, the tempting prospect for Britain of Turkish civil engineering contracts, and Prime Minister Ozal's brave attempt to stimulate free enterprise and economic growth, are all signs of an increasing identity of view with Britain.

However, progress down this path must be both cautious and accompanied by demands for action by General Evren in crucial areas.

The first concerns the estimated 18,000 political prisoners, many allegedly tortured, identified by Amnesty International as languishing in Turkish jails. Further, the Turkish Ministry of Justice admitted that in April this year, no less than 5,300 prisoners faced trial in military courts, which are neither independent of the Executive, nor allow adequate access to defence lawyers.

Secondly, Turkey has been widely criticised, notably in the Council of Europe, for its treatment of both Armenian and Kurdish minorities.

Finally, it is difficult to extend the warmest of welcomes to the titular head of a country which currently has 30,000 troops in occupation of Cyprus, which is both a former colony and current Commonwealth member.

Whilst reminding General Evren of Turkey's obligations to withdraw from Cyprus, in line with both UN and Security Council resolutions, the British Gov-

ernment should use its good offices and guarantor status for the island, to ensure that the Turks persuade their Turkish Cypriot client, Rauf Denktaş, of the need for a flexible negotiating stance in his forthcoming talks with Cyprus's President Vassiliou.

The rightful reunification of Cyprus which might result, would enhance Turkey's international image, ease its EEC application, and promote stability in an area of the world which sorely needs it.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY COOMBS, House of Commons, July 12.

From the Director of Amnesty International, British Section
Sir, Your article of July 9 raised serious concerns about the treatment of very young children in prison in Turkey. Unfortunately the inhumane and degrading treatment of many prisoners in Turkey is all too familiar to Amnesty.

A British Amnesty group in Exeter has been campaigning since last year for the release of 17-year-old Nihat Kaymaz who was arrested in June, 1987, for reading an Islamic book and passing it on to a friend. Because he was imprisoned for the non-violent expression of his beliefs, Amnesty considers him to be a "prisoner of conscience".

However, on May 18 this year, the Turkish Ambassador, Rahmi Gumrukcuoglu, wrote a letter to a British newspaper stating "I would like to remind you once more that there are no 'prisoners of conscience' in Turkey. Freedom of thought is under warranty of the Constitution". Amnesty's researches show that this is not the case.

Yours faithfully,
MARIE STAUNTON, Director, Amnesty International, British Section, 5 Roberts Place, off Bowling Green Lane, EC1, July 11.

Long-standing effect

From Mrs Catherine Williams
Sir, A week or so ago I became eligible for a senior citizen railcard. On the day after I had purchased this, I travelled to London from Chippenham, Wiltshire, a journey of about one hour and 10 minutes. The first-class carriage was full of men, so intent on thoughts of making their way in this world that no one had any time to notice a not-so-young lady who had no seat. I stood all the way, in spite of the fact that I look rather frail and worn.

In addition, the guard who came

round to collect tickets did not tell me that I could get a partial refund on a first-class fare, as I had had to stand.

In my youth I stood for elderly people as a matter of course — men or women; sex has nothing to do with it. I would be ashamed if either of my two sons or my daughter were to remain sitting when an elderly person was standing near by. Yours faithfully, CATHERINE WILLIAMS, The Old Vicarage, Lower Westwood, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

Women's role

From Dr K. C. Bass
Sir, Your City staff report (July 4) that Mr Christopher Johnson, chief economic adviser to Lloyds Bank, has commented that "the proportion of women graduates needs to be increased to meet the shortage of mathematics and science teachers".

May I suggest that my department is making its contribution in this respect in the field of chemistry. At recent board of examiners' meetings, six out of seven recipients of prizes awarded to the best undergraduates were women. The ratio of male to female undergraduates in the department is approximately 2.3:1.

Yours faithfully,
K. C. BASS, City University, Department of Chemistry, Northampton Square, EC1, July 7.

Identity cards as national asset

From Mr David Martin, MP for Portsmouth South (Conservative)
Sir, Your leader (July 8) on a statutory membership card scheme for those attending football matches rightly pointed out that this would promote "improvement in crowd behaviour as the clubs begin to exert some control over the spectators they admit".

One of the major problems which remains to be resolved is the vandalism and violence which takes place outside the grounds, particularly in densely-populated residential areas where most grounds are situated.

A national identity card system would help the police — providing suitable powers are given — to prevent known troublemakers from coming into the immediate area in the first place. Any reasonable measures which assist them in that task must be welcomed.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MARTIN, House of Commons, July 8.

From Mr J. F. Greenhough
Sir, Woodrow Wyatt advocates an identity card for everyone ("A licence to drink", June 29). One must assume he did not draw his pension at 65. Today he is 70 and he will shortly receive this and an obligation "retirement pension" card with the appropriate number.

Pensioners seem uncomplaining at having an identification document which they need to carry to obtain certain benefits. Why should other less senior objects? No, enter the poll-tax era it seems, practical that the rest of the population can be as easily identified.

Yours faithfully,
J. F. GREENHOUGH, 9 Willows Avenue, Lytham, Lancashire, July 4.

From the Headmaster of The Leys School, Cambridge
Sir, I refer to your report (July 2, later editions) on the introduction of identity cards for young drinkers in Chard.

While I do not claim originality, we have already been operating a similar scheme at the Leys School this term. Pupils in my upper sixth, with parental approval, receive a card bearing their name, date of birth, and photograph, which is signed by me. The card is sealed in a plastic wallet and given to the boy or girl when they reach the age of 18.

They also have to obtain their housemaster's permission when they wish to go out to a public house.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY BEYNON, Headmaster, The Leys School, Cambridge, July 4.

'Greenhouse' effect

From Mr Peter Grist
Sir, The Earl of Cranbrook (July 7) is correct to say that a tropical forest comprises a greater volume of timber per unit area than do other forests. However, a tropical forest does function more effectively as a carbon dioxide sink than do forests at other latitudes.

At the tropics, net received solar radiation is much greater over an entire year than it is in temperate zones — facilitating a year-round growing season and therefore greater annual fixation of CO₂. In one year, a tropical forest may fix between 1000 and 2000 grammes of CO₂ per cubic metre, compared with between 200 and 400 grammes in temperate forests.

Replenishment of forests worldwide, as suggested by the Earl, would certainly help slow the rise in atmospheric CO₂. Notwithstanding this, until we find a technology that can convert huge amounts of energy without burning six thousand million tonnes of fossil fuels every year, the problem will remain with us.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GRIST, The Bungalow, Filands School, Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

Universal pin-up

From Mrs Bruce Summers
Sir, Mrs D. S. Abbott (July 5) is wrong to suppose that the advent of the disposable nappy has sounded the death knell of the dependable safety pin. Having gone fully disposable "nappy-wise" with our latest child, I can assure her that the sticky tabs of these "designer" nappies are about as reliable as the confluence of a new-born baby.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE SUMMERS, 55 Church Hill, Cheddington, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

From Mrs Michael Noakes
Sir, Like Mrs Barry (July 11), we bring our pensioned-off nappy pins out once a year at Christmas. They are perfect for fixing bulging Christmas stockings to the end of beds.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN NOAKES, 146 Hamilton Terrace, St John's Wood, NW8.

From Mr Robin Plummer
Sir, Poise is the art of being the only person in the room who knows that the carnation on his dinner jacket is held in place by a nappy pin.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN PLUMMER, The Limes, 2 Barkway Road, Royston, Hertfordshire.

THE ARTS

David Robinson reviews Nikita Mikhalkov's Chekhov-based tale of seduction, and the rest of the week's new releases

To Russia with love Italian style

CINEMA

Dark Eyes (PG)
Curzon MayfairThe Monster Squad
(15)
Odeon Marble ArchPolice Academy 5:
Assignment Miami
Beach (PG)
Warner West End;
Cannons Haymarket,
Oxford StreetSherman's March
(PG)
ICA

Nikita Mikhalkov is on record as saying that he is one of those to whom *perestroika* is irrelevant. He and his brother Andrei Konchalovsky, director of *Maria's Lovers*, *Runaway Train* and *Shy People*, come from a privileged family (their poet father not only wrote the national anthem, but also an inspirational piece, "Rock music is like AIDS, an illness without a cure") and had already established cosmopolitan lives for themselves when passports were a rarity for most Soviet citizens.

At home in the USSR, Mikhalkov made a series of elegant small-scale films, several of them period pieces. Among these was *Unfinished Piece for Mechanical Piano*, based on Chekhov's *Platonov*. Mikhalkov returns to Chekhov for his first Italian production, the seductive and decorative *Dark Eyes*, shot in Italy and the Soviet Union. The script, by Mikhalkov with Alexander Adabashian, amalgamates elements from several Chekhov stories, including *The Lady with the Little Dog*, which inspired Josef Heifetz's classic 1960 film.

As the central character, Romano, Marcello Mastroianni plays a role that he has often played before with slight variations; and reveals that at heart he has always been a character from Chekhov — likeable and ineffectual, cowardly and faithless, thoughtless and superficial, quietly desperate, a buffoon.

Romano relates his story to a



Mastroianni's effortlessly unflawed performance in *Dark Eyes* is matched by the exquisite Elena Sofonova (above) as the melancholy young Russian beauty whom he ultimately betrays

modest, kindly Russian he meets in the empty dining room of a passenger steamer. In the flashback first act we see his marriage to a rich woman (Silvana Mangano), ignored and despised in his own house. In the second act he retreats to a spa, where in the midst of his philandering, he seduces and falls in love with a melancholy young Russian beauty, Anna (Elena Sofonova). Anna flees in remorse.

In the third act, Romano pursues her to the remote Russian province, finds her imprisoned in a miserable marriage, and promises to return for her. The fourth act sees his return to Italy and the inevitable betrayal. The film ends with an ironic coda, back on the passenger boat.

"Our purpose," says Mikhalkov, "was not to transpose

Chekhov's stories to the screen but to create a Chekhovian environment. We didn't try to respect the word to the letter but in its spirit."

There is tragedy in Romano's inability to prevent himself lying and betraying; and in the imbalance between the depth of Anna's passion and his own incurable shallowness. Yet, as in many of Chekhov's most tragic stories, the overall style is burlesque, at its most grotesque in the scenes of the daily rituals of the spa or the absurdities of Russian small-town society.

It is packed with gems of

sardonic comedy, like the concert at which a seraphic infant prodigy performs doggedly on the piano for the utterly unappreciative party guests; or where Romano, posing as an industrialist, demonstrates the merits of unbreakable glass to sceptical provincials.

Mastroianni's effortlessly unflawed performance is matched by those of the exquisite Elena Sofonova, Silvana Mangano, Vsevolod Larionov (as the kindly stranger) and Innokenti Smoktunovskiy (Hamlet in Kozintsev's memorable Russian version), seen in a brief, telling appearance as a

provincial governor. The pleasures are impaired only by an itch to trim several scenes in the diffuse last quarter of the film.

American children, much more than the rest of the world, are exposed to nostalgia fall-out from the constant flow of old B-pictures tapped by television into homes in the United States. In *The Monster Squad*, the 28-year-old director Fred Dekker and his co-writer Shane Black celebrate the B-movie culture they share with their juvenile audience.

Recalling the declining days of horror movies when the star

monsters were bumper-packed in *Somebody Meets Somebody* pictures, he has *Dracula*, *The Mummy*, *Wolfman* and *Frankenstein's Monster*, along with an assortment of vampires and zombies, invade a quiet little mid-West town on some fiendish mission.

The *Monster Squad* itself, a club of 12-year-old monster freaks, revives the spirit of *Our Gang* comedies, with the obligatory fat boy, pint-sized side-kick and precocious tag-along baby sister — who comes in handy when a virgin is required for some magic mumbo-jumbo, the town's older girls having forfeited their eligibility.

English kids may not pick up all the old movie references — like the friendship between *Frankenstein's*

dopey monster and the little girl — but there is a wealth of special effects, for once more funny than stomach-turning, to compensate. Even where the action drags, too, the *Monster Squad* themselves remain attractive and not too cute, with a fairly acerbic line in dialogue.

Surmising, perhaps, that British parents might nonetheless find them too dirty-mouthed to be playmates for their own offspring, the British censors have given *The Monster Squad* a "15" certificate, which will effectively exclude its intended audience.

Our Gang would seem excessively sophisticated beside the antics of the infantile cops in *Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach*. Although the successive annual additions to the series have grossed a cumulative total of \$455 million, film by film the returns have shown a progressive sharp decline, matching the fall-off in energy and humour. The latest contribution conforms to the trend.

The idiots of the Academy migrate en masse to a Miami convention where their beloved but gaga old chief (George Gaynes) is to be honoured and retired. The same old characters go through the same old routines, setting one another on fire, falling into the water, expelling wind and in general aiming at the comic sensibilities of people in perambulators. The director was Alan Myerson, the writer Stephen J. Curwick.

Sherman's March is an egocentric trip by a documentary film maker, Ross McElwee. The premise (and probably the fact of the matter) is that he has a grant to make a film about the remaining evidence of the American Union commander William Sherman's devastating march through the South during the Civil War.

That could have been interesting; but instead McElwee, inspired by his sister's advice that a camera is a great gambit for meeting women, embarks on a road movie in search of women, himself and (incidentally and superficially) connections between memories of the Civil War and apprehensions of nuclear disaster.

The encounters are occasionally amusing, but McElwee has neither the quirky humour of a Jim Jarmusch or the personal charm to keep us diverted for two and a half hours of a kind of home movie.

A stiff upper lip

TELEVISION

Before the invention of recording technology, voice-overs were mostly done by God or ventriloquists — or perhaps both in the case of the deviously enterprising vocalist who got rid of a medieval pope by installing a secret speaking tube and telling the unfortunate pontiff that it was his boss calling and that he was fired.

Indeed, the improbably miraculous attributes of voice throwing lasted long enough to make some of the early radio stars ventriloquists. Serious but not divine actors had to content themselves with shows when they wished to show publicly what they were keeping to themselves.

But then film and television allowed the audience to reach parts of characters other characters could not reach.

Last night television's adaptation of two very different plays chose opposite solutions to the

problems of dramatically representing interior monologue. In the first part of HTV's three-part production of Eugene O'Neill's mammoth, laboured, symbolically cumbersome but bizarrely addictive psychological drama, *Strange Interlude* (Channel 4), all temptation to use voice-overs was resisted.

The lack of intrusive close-ups during voice over was perhaps welcomed by the strong cast since, with Jose Ferrer as the still working Professor Lead, Glenda Jackson as his slip of a daughter and Edward Petherbridge as her novelist admirer, there was some poetic licence with age. But though Petherbridge was as brilliantly nimble as ever, Ferrer, and to a lesser extent Jackson, were perhaps too respectful or the dated portentiousness of O'Neill's trial by words.

There was no fear of close-ups during a voice over in BBC1's production of Rib Davis's pertinent, Edinburgh fringe festival prize-winning prison play *No Further Cause for Concern*, when the central figure Danny (Sean Chapman) ended up talking to himself with his mouth shut in solitary confinement.

Though not dramatically innovative, the play was an important reminder that our prisons make mockery of our claims to be a civilized society.

Andrew Hislop

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Swan or ugly duckling?

DANCE

Swan Lake
Coliseum

One thing about putting on *Swan Lake* is that the title alone more or less guarantees good houses, however much the critics might trounce the production.

So it is sensible of London Festival Ballet to open its short season at the Coliseum with Natalia Makarova's new staging, premiered at Bradford in April, even though some of us might think that next week's programmes, with their variety of choreographic styles and rich assembly of star talents, are likely to do more justice to the company and to Peter Schaufuss's stewardship of it.

The odd thing about this *Swan Lake* is that it does not really make the company look very good. Surprising, that, after the results Makarova achieved with *Bayadere*, and I suspect that the cause is that Makarova herself jumped very young into leading roles and never had to work her way up through the smaller and larger solo parts. Consequently she does not realize how vital those are to a company's health and has cut most of them out.

That would matter less if she



Staid: Schaufuss and Hall

had brought the central love story to vivid life, but she treats the plot in a perfunctory way, and her own choreographic links, between chunks by Ashton and after Ivanov or Petipa, are stodgy. It may be that one or other of the

season's varied casts will bring it off in spite of that.

Andria Hall, at Tuesday's opening performance had the advantage of being allowed to dance both aspects of the ballerina role, good romantic Odette and glittering bad Odile. (Some nights Makarova shares them out: a bad decision which needs rethinking.) But Hall and Peter Schaufuss, although generally very correct in their dancing, gave somewhat staid performances, relying on presentation more than content for effect.

The one real highlight in this performance was the Ashton *Pas de Quatre* in Act 1, much more satisfactorily cast and danced than at the Bradford premiere. Trinidad Seviliano especially was a sheer delight in the solo originally made for Sibley, to which she brought a seductive twinkle all her own.

But Christine Camillo as the other woman, Patrick Armand and Alessandro Molin as their cavaliers, were also in sparkling form. It must be a good omen that all of these are due to take the leads during the run.

The orchestral playing under Graham Bond was brisk and stormy, which is more apt to some episodes of the ballet than to Tchaikovsky's music as a whole.

John Percival

Outlook renewed

OPERA

Paul Bunyan
Royal College of Music

Paul Bunyan stands astride 1988, "tall as the Empire State", with all the new-found confidence born of renewed creative attention. Britten's first stage work, the operetta-parable focused on the giant lumberjack of American folk lore, has seen within two months a new critical edition of Auden's libretto, an important recording and a semi-staged production at Aldeburgh reviewed here a month ago by Paul Griffiths.

Mike Ashman's production for the Royal College of Music is a fitting crescendo to its year of rehabilitation. Its solutions to the shifting levels of narration, tone of voice and message have a simplicity and lack of self-consciousness which belong uniquely to the work itself.

The ballad refrains are sung, wittily and melodiously, by Jason Howard, the accompaniment of fiddle, bass and guitar in front of the curtain; the "choric" dog, cats and humans are dressed in the black and white top-hat of the Broadway musical. Bunyan himself stands, Prospero-like, at the

top of a central spiral staircase; he descends to harrow Hell, and rises to the theatre's balcony to take his leave.

Bernard Cusshaw's strikingly economic design focuses each most powerfully grouped and animated scene as America — and mankind — crawls from primeval void to civilization. Tall tree trunks, already shadowing the iron uprights of industry, provide the darkness of the first act. At the start of the second, their verticals have become the criss-crossed horizontal logs of wage economy. By the end, they are cleared to reveal the sunrise of a brave new world.

John Bishop's eloquent lighting narrows the space for each individual "number" to strike a vivid visual image: the moral bewilderment of the bespectacled Johnny Inkslinger (Philip Sheffield); the submersed entry of Slim (Simon Haynes); the long diagonal of Tiny's veil of mourning (Diana Horsey); a fragile soprano, well cast; the huge screen projected silhouettes of the fight of Hel Helson (Ashley Thorburn) with Paul (Adrian Fisher), a David and Goliath in moral reverse. James Lockhart draws sharp, fresh playing from the pit. Student replacements conduct tonight and tomorrow.

Hilary Finch

Pit-inspired rediscovery

THEATRE

Iolanthe
Cambridge

Probably no tradition survives without some kind of interruption, and the demise of the original D'Oyly Carte company in 1982 may have been no bad thing for the future of a national institution which had become too institutionalized.

Certainly, the new D'Oyly Carte company, reaching London for its first season after a nationwide tour, brings a sense of freshness and rediscovery, which is not just a question of new blood but also of a new look at Gilbert's text and, more especially, Sullivan's score.

The immediate impression, after a splendidly spry overture with each strand in the texture clear yet integrated (the pastoral

woodwind particularly vivacious), is of revival inspired from the pit. Music director Bramwell Tovey has gone back to Sullivan's manuscript and coaxed his players into producing a lovely transparent sound and lightly-sprung rhythms with, at times, a distinctly continental tilt.

Among the principals, Richard Sear's Lord Chancellor is irrepressibly nimble of foot as well as of tongue, with a voice as dry yet penetrating as elderly claret: a performance in the best of the old Savoyard tradition, just a touch to arch for my liking at moments.

Gillian Knight as Queen of the Fairies has all the contralto chest register one could wish for (shades of Edith Evans as Lady Bracknell), yet she also manages to give this preposterous character genuine pathos with some beautifully floated pianissimo singing in that classically Victorian ode to sublimation, "Oh, foolish fay". In the title part (actually rather

more preposterous, when you come to think about it), Thora Kerr looks lovely and dignified and sings with just the right controlled purity of tone. What more could one ask of a 200-year-old fairy with a grown-up son, who married the Lord Chancellor and looks 17?

John Cashmore sings Strephon well enough but does seem to be going through the amorous swainly motions, not quite swept off his feet with passion. It may have something to do with his peculiar cowboy hat. Vivian Tierney is both pert and robust as Phyllis, perfectly capable of taking on the Upper House in *totu* an amusing portrayal, very competently sung.

The peers themselves, magnificently introduced by fanfares from the Grenadier Guards Band, are well matched by a chorus of all-too-human fairies.

Harry Eyres

Girl Crazy
Guildhall School,
Barbican

The end of year shows staged by drama schools offer a chance to catch up on musicals one knows only by reputation: this early Greenwich, for example, dating from 1930, may offer no opportunity for spectacular scenic effect but has songs instead.

Last year the Guildhall School of Music and Drama showed Gershwin's first hit *Lady Be Good*. The plot transports girl-crazy Danny (Mickey Rooney in the film) from New York to Arizona where he falls for a local mail girl. They declare their love in the fit of "Embraceable You", she loses him to "The Land of the Gay Caballero" — but this is 1930, remember: it is she who goes with the other man — and all ends happily "when it's cactus time in Arizona".

It is not a show to test a student's emotional range but does teach variety of pace: one scene has the cattering rhythm of

"Bronco Buster" cheekily echoing "The Ride of the Valkyries" between the lines, the next contains a sex 'n' smoke number, "Sam and Delilah", and the hectic, syncopated pulse of "I Got Rhythm". This was the number that rocketed Ethel Merman to fame and it has to be said that her equivalent here misses the getsy potential of the role.

Ben Miles and Anne Riley project sincerity in the leading roles as the leading pair. But the production's richest character is Gershwin's richest character: Ben Brooks, a local bad man. Jonathan Doname's engaging performance combined quick vandyke wit with a physique of a venturesome young bull, and he has the show's best lines, "Don't shoot," squeals the bad man (Andrew Coughlan), temporarily doped, "I'll give you \$50 for the gun!" Glebe nods: "How can you shoot a man when he's talking business."

Jeremy Kingston

BOOKS

Singer of Suburbia

Philip Howard reviews the first volume of a life of the *enfant terrible* who became the Poet Laureate and National Institution

John Betjeman was the most popular English poet since Tennyson, or at any rate Kipling. (There is no exact measurement of such a judgement, which is why it can be made without fear of contradiction.) He rhymed and jingled in the memory, and appealed to the nostalgia and snobbery of a middle-class audience far wider than the usual poetry-reading classes. He graduated from being a prickly and unsuccessful intellectual *enfant terrible* in the Thirties to Grand Old Victorian Uncle on television, conservative and teddy-bear to the nation, finding a wistful poetry in Tuffnell Park and Turnham Green, Woolworth's and fizzy lemonade and ABC tea-rooms, proclaiming to the suburbs the cosy truth about themselves in their own tongue. He was the poet the royals read, and became a national institution, and the Poet Laureate who was most suited to his official duties as good-humoured herald of state occasions. But he was always a minor poet: sentimental, an unheroic

may have had to be bribed with £5 to keep his mouth shut about it, and Auden may have added the punchline: "It wasn't worth the £5."

Well, I'm not sure that I need quite so much detail; but then I enjoy Betjeman a fair way this side of idolatry. But, Gosh and Golly, those who are in love with the Bright Young Things and the far-off popinjays of Oxford in the Thirties, the Mitford gels and the Longfords, Harold Acton and Maurice Bowra, will find a rich source of gossip and anecdote and previously unrecorded Betjemaniana. I could have done with a bit of subbing down, particularly of Betjeman's flirtatious letters in intolerably twee literary English and English words transcribed in Greek script.

Bevis Hillier is aware of the dangers of delicious logorrhea. He writes the longest "short" reviews of anybody since Tom Macaulay. Betjeman himself could hang on a bit: "The poem, which starts in the next column and goes on for such a long time in the others..."

YOUNG BETJEMAN

By Bevis Hillier
John Murray, £15.95

This is the first volume of a major biography of a minor poet. In nearly 500 pages it takes Betjeman from roots and birth only to marriage at the age of 27, when he was a not very famous journalist: "I write and I write and I write under different names and in different styles, yet no one has heard of either me or my pseudonyms. I must have written the word architecture more times than there are people in England who can pronounce it properly." The book is done with diligence and style. Bevis Hillier, who shares his subject's sense of mischief, wearing his vivacity like a pop waistcoat beneath his sober biographical tweeds, has spent ten years on this book. He has interviewed almost everyone and read almost everything that could possibly be relevant. The result is lively, and balanced, and full. The question arises (only faintly) whether the genre of heavyweight biography is not a bit overpowered for Betjeman, like putting a clown in court dress, or a top hat on a Bradford millstone. Do we really need that much minute textual analysis of the sources and echoes in 13-year-old Betjeman's very juvenile juvenilia in *The Draconian*, the magazine of the Dragon School? Do we care whether the influence was Charles Stuart Calverley or Eliza Follen? Do we want such lengthy consideration of whether Betjeman went to bed with Auden at Oxford? They may have been discovered in bed by Auden's scout, who

Hillier claims that he is not an admirer of the Nennian school of biography. Nennius wrote: *Coecervavi omne quod invenit* - "I have bungled in everything I could lay my hands on." But because he has talked to so many of the primary sources, Betjeman and his wife, their friends and associates, Hillier feels that he has a duty to record much of what they said as source material for posterity. Again he protests a shade too much about the proximity of his notes, which would have made Servius glossing Virgil scream with jealousy. He cannot write a sentence without stamping his foot on it ("Foot and note disease," Betjeman called it), and the notes contain some marvellously close scholarship on topics ranging from the use of horse chestnuts in the manufacture of cordite to possible descendants of an Uncle Silas sort in the upper branches of the Meyrick family tree.

Such meticulous scholarship brings out the pedant in all of us. Note: Betjeman's snippet in the *Daily Express* gossip column of 17 November 1928 about an Oxford undergraduate leading a lobster down the High by a pale blue ribbon was cribbed from Gérard de Nerval in the *Palais-Royal*. And Betjeman spoiled the answer to the question why by reversing the reasons. It should be: "Because it doesn't bark, and it knows the secrets of the sea" (not "deep").

This first volume is the story of an



Archibald and the Young Poet

original and clever failure, and the making of a minor poet. It tells how the spoiled, only child of a father in trade (making Asprey's cocktail cabinets and such for those born with a silver swizzle-stick in their mouths) rose above his background, of which he was ashamed; endured the rigours of philistine Marlborough by making himself a character; found himself at Oxford (though failing repeatedly in Divinity, of all subjects) as a poet, journalist, playwright; taught in a prep school (the last refuge of those without a degree) where he sounds alarming fun; became an eccentric social climber and cherisher of grudges for real or imagined slights down the ages; found a niche as all-purpose scribbler for *The Architectural Review*; and after several half-hearted misses married into a pukka Army family that thought him a dreadful parvenu. Lady Chetwode went around

saying: "My daughter's got entangled with a little middle-class Dutchman," and told her daughter: "We ask people like that to our houses, but we don't marry them."

On the way there is much amusing social history and gossip about that golden, or at any gilded in its opinion of itself, generation. John Betjeman at Oxford with a crush on Hugh Gaitskell saying to him: "Hugh may I stroke your bottom?" And Gaitskell replying: "Oh, I suppose so, if you must." There is much loving bunt-the-thimble for the sources of the early verses, and a fair amount of previously unpublished verse and prose. One can see why it has not been published before. For Betjeman's book is a fair feast of delights. For Betjemaybes it is a persuasive and moving account of the creation of one of the endearing eccentrics of our century. There is no room for another Betjeman biog for ages.

The roar of the turf

Woodrow Wyatt

HORSEWEAT AND TEARS

By Simon Barnes
Heinemann, £12.95



Dunlop: man of many horses

Two-year-old horses not yet fully grown into their strength and bone structure. John Dunlop has 200 horses in his stables. The hopes for them all are realized by only a few. The morale of the stable depends on a steady flow of wins from the exceptional successful horses.

The beginning of the 1987 flat race season was a bad one in every way for John Dunlop. His son Tim who would have preferred to train horses than be in a merchant bank was killed in a car accident on May 14. John Dunlop could not face a race meeting until after Ascot because the English in Simon Barnes's words "know neither how to give nor how to receive sympathy." John Dunlop could not bear to embarrass the people he would have to meet. His ill luck hovered over the races, where his great stable had no winners for 23 days. Eventually his luck turned, and winners of handsome prize monies started in July, making 1987 a good racing year, though not the best of years.

John Dunlop is patently honest, meticulously attentive to the details of each horse, and patiently amiable and available to all owners however difficult. His skills are supreme, with the best

horses down to the worst, if they have the slightest chance of winning a race. The *epitaph* Promise Kept had a deformed spine. It belonged to a *Sehora* whom he had promised to train the first horse she bred. Against all probabilities he got Promise Kept to win a small race at Nottingham. It was easier with Moon Madness, owned by Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, who with her husband gave Dunlop his opportunity to train. The Duchess, though severely ill, went to Saint-Cloud to watch this four-year-old compete for a prize of £127,000. "But thank the Lord," Dunlop said, "it all worked out, the horse won, and from that day on, the Duchess started to improve herself."

Simon Barnes's beautifully written book will be enjoyed by those who know nothing about racing and those who know a lot. It is moving, funny, exciting, and full of human, as well as horse, nature, and will enhance the status of racing among the general public. His praises of John Dunlop, who is a genius trainer, are fully justified.

Simon Barnes on golf, page 48

Resurrection of old sins

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

INTO THE NIGHT

By Cornell Woolrich
Simon & Schuster, £11.95

rules in entertainingly over-the-top Tom Sharpe romp featuring an inspired assortment of cops, gangsters, undercover agents, drunks, wayward furniture, and missing documents. Somewhere there's a good mystery too.

● *Speak for the Dead*, by Margaret Yorke (*Mysterious Press* £10.95). The undercurrent of Home Counties suburban life exposed in strong tale of sexy shop assistant and part-time whore in unhappy marriage with possible

wife-killer. Yorke leads us gently and persuasively to a powerful climax raising provocative issues of justice and guilt.

● *Rosemary for Remembrance*, by June Thomson (*Constable* £9.95). Eng. Lit. summer school in country manor hosts murder of randy lecturer, clutching herb in fist. More Shakespearean references, more deaths, much feisty behaviour by tutor Harriet Wade and the solid, lovestruck Chief Inspector Finch in intelligent attendance. Usual excellence of writing and plot, with some lighter-than-usual digs at the second-rate literary and academic scene.

● *Threatening Eye*, by Lesley Grant-Adams (*Faber* £10.95). A tale of ordinary village folk enmeshed in homicide, church restoration, petty pornography and other typical pursuits.

NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:
 Fear No Evil, by Natan Sharansky, translated by Stefani Hoffman (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16.95) Memoirs of dissident prisoner of KGB.
 France Since the Popular Front, by Maurice Larkin (Oxford, £30) Edinburgh professor on French political and social history since 1936.
 Pre-Christian Ireland, by Peter Harbison (Thames & Hudson, £14.95).
 Snake Changers in Texas, by Clive James (Cape, £11.95) Lively collected pieces from 1980-87, and from Nikl Landa to Eugenio Montale.
 The Berlin Blockade, by Ann & John Tusa (Hodder & Stoughton, £16.95) When the West flew firm, and shaped our modern Europe.
 The Collected Letters of Joseph Conrad, vol. 3 1903-1907, edited by Frederick R. Karl & Laurence Davies (Cambridge, £35).
 The Thinking Reed, Intellectuals and the Soviet State from 1917 to the Present, by Boris Kagaritsky, translated by Brian Pearce (Verso, £17.95).

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Maker's myths of fur and fowl

FICTION

Andrew Sinclair

TALES OF THE EARLY WORLD

By Ted Hughes
Faber, £5.95

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GLOOMY GUS OF THE CHICAGO BEARS?

By Robert Coover
Heinemann, £9.95

THE PARABLE OF THE BLIND

By Gert Hofmann
Secker & Warburg, £10.95

JOURNEY TO THE END OF THE NIGHT

By Louis-Ferdinand Céline
John Calder, £14.95

Like William Blake, Ted Hughes takes the Bible to heart. Only as little children may we approach the divine. *Tales of the Early World* may seem to be a children's book, but it is for all people who still have the sense of wonder of the young. The tales are the tales of creation, with God the Artificer making His birds and beasts. The playful invention of the Poet Laureate is almost greater than that of the Creator Himself. Blake's Tyger, tyger, burning bright, is created by God's mother to bring a baby to lifeless woman and revive her, and then is struck to the size of the domestic cat. God's clay leftovers become the lion with a hunger for sausages. When God tries to stop his leftovers from eating all the other animals, the lion says, "I'm your fault, I'm rubbish, aren't I?" All very irreverent, but with a worship for all the creatures of the earth that makes this new Genesis enthralling to read.

The language of these tales make them burn in the mind. Gazelles drift like shadows of clouds; eels are told by the new moon that they are the sweetest of fish. The trunks of elephants become worms, forever digging up deep earth to find the mystic clay that will complete them. All the elements are related, all being praised in these stories that pay tribute to a poet's vision of the beauty of fish, fur, and fowl. *Tales of the Early World* and his previous *What Is The Truth?* make Ted Hughes the finest writer of children's stories for all ages since Kipling put down his pen on the last of his *Just So Stories*.

Robert Coover's fable about the American dream hero is wry, illuminating, and provocative. The brilliant device of making the narrator a Marxist Jew alienates the reader from the work ethic that drives Gloomy Gus to his apothecosis as the greatest lover and halfback in American history. Gus finally dies on a supreme run, juggling a gas grenade between strikers and goons outside a Chicago factory. So he brings together the sporting, sexual, and labour myths of the Thirties in one terminal perfect play.

Robert Coover has become the Nathaniel West of modern writers, hiding parable and parody under a sufficient cloak of realism to put over a credible story and characters. Actually, *Whatever Happened to Gloomy Gus of the Chicago Bears?* is a savage and moralistic attack on professional American sports, which are said to reflect the sickness of society. Gus drills himself in all aspects of football and foreplay so that he can conquer men and women on and off the field. He is a cartoon of the social product, "a mirror image of the insane nation that created him". In holding up this magnifying and distorting glass to the United States, Coover has produced a hero larger than life, whose excesses are a paradigm of his country and warn of a grossness in the body politic.

The Parable of the Blind is the name of Pieter Bruegel's painting of six blind men stumbling and falling and screaming. This is what they have to do in Gert Hofmann's novel of the same name. They are woken by a knocker at a

barn door and given food and mocked by villagers. They find their way to a pond and the painter, who makes them practise their poses. They are led back to the barn in the night which they cannot see. For their scene is always darkness, and they will never know what they now represent forever in the painting for the generations that come after.

There is no one-eyed king in this world of the six blind men. We inhabit their incomprehension, suffer their pitfalls. We read with a sack over our heads. Gert Hofmann has learned from Samuel Beckett - simple conversations of infinite suggestion and no consequence, the description of action after action leading nowhere. But this true parable of the blind has a claustrophobic power that makes Hofmann the most singular writer to come from Germany since Heinrich Böll. In imagining how Bruegel's blind men came to be painted, he has set permanently in words the opaque sight of those who cannot see.

The classic *Journey to the End of the Night* has been unavailable on a hardbound edition for too long. It increased the French language to a greater degree than anything since the works of Rabelais, and stands with Joyce's *Ulysses* as the most important novel of worldplay in modern times. The problem of its rarity lies in Céline's politics in the Second World War, his rabid anti-Semitism and collaboration with the Nazi occupation of France. In fact, he was a doctor of the poor with a trepanned skull, as insane and rational as any King Lear, as vicious and profound as any Jonathan Swift. The publishers of Céline's nightmarish account of his life from the First World War until the Thirties in the person of Bardamu have printed a new English version by the best of Céline's translators, Ralph Manheim. But they have provided an inadequate introduction, which fails to explain the value of the work or the complex and contradictory character of its author, always on a journey to the end of himself in a series of exhorting and disjointed writings.

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Terence Moore, TLS February 12 1988

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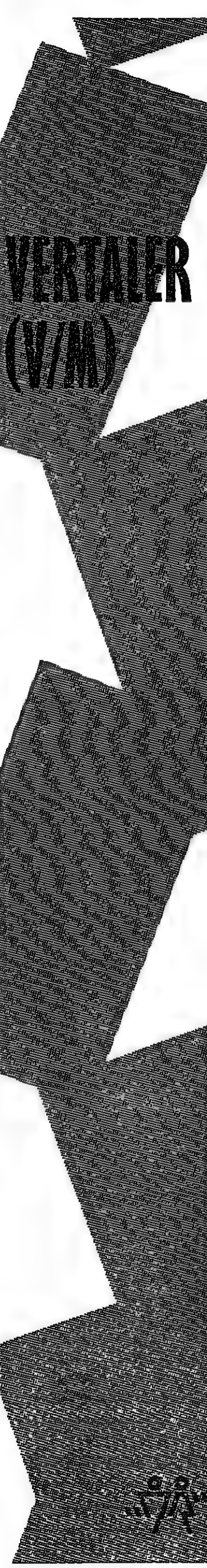
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In reply please quote Ref. No. 6271.



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Moscow talks on enclave crisis

From A Correspondent
Moscow

The Azerbaijan supreme soviet, or parliament, has rejected as unconstitutional a vote by the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh to secede from Azerbaijan and join Armenia.

As the dispute continued to simmer, a spokesman for the Armenian supreme soviet said that the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union would meet in emergency session in Moscow on Monday to discuss Nagorno-Karabakh, an area with an Armenian majority population within Azerbaijan.

Neither the Supreme Soviet nor the Soviet Foreign Ministry could confirm the date of the meeting.

The Azerbaijani parliament met late on Tuesday, only hours after the Nagorno-Karabakh Communist Party leadership challenged Moscow and the Soviet Constitution by voting virtually unanimously to break with Azerbaijan.

A spokesman for the Azerbaijani supreme soviet said that the vote to declare the Nagorno-Karabakh regional council decision null and void was carried with little debate. It reaffirmed an earlier vote rejecting Armenian appeals for Nagorno-Karabakh to be handed to Armenia.

Officials in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, said the vote triggered demonstrations involving tens of thousands of Armenian nationalists yesterday as a general strike rolled into its second week.

Troops have been deployed in several cities to keep the rival Azerbaijanis and Armenians from repeating February's riots in the Azerbaijan town of Sumgait that left 32 people dead, including 26 Armenians.

In the worst flare-up since then, at least one person was killed and 36 injured when troops clashed with protesters occupying Yerevan airport on July 5. *Pravda* yesterday said a criminal investigation into the civilian leadership of the occupation had been launched.

The Nagorno-Karabakh regional council voted on February 20 to break with Azerbaijan and appealed to the Supreme Soviet to approve the move. That vote, viewed as a direct challenge to Karmazin policy, cost Mr Boris Karmazin, the local Communist Party chief, his job.

However, Tuesday's vote took things a step further by resolving to secede unilaterally. Armenian nationalist sources in Moscow said that the resolution — which included changing the name of the territory to Artsakh Armyenia, declaring Nagorno-Karabakh independent of Azerbaijan and urging the immediate start of unification measures with Armenia — would be very difficult to implement.

Soviet newspapers have reported that Armenian nationalists in Stepanakert had vowed to die for the cause.

Baltic port pledge, page 9
Caucasus minefield, page 14

Weary travellers resigned to delay



A holidaymaker heading for Greece catching up on his sleep amid the confusion of Manchester Airport departure lounge. Photograph: Barry Greenwood.

Continued from page 1

Birmingham, who was flying to Cyprus with her three children, described Tuesday night as terrible. "Some holiday companies have put people in hotels, but I was told that I was regarded as being local, which is absolutely ridiculous. I have had nowhere to look after the children, nowhere to clean up."

Staffing levels among air traffic controllers have fallen to critically low levels, according to the Guild of Air Traffic Controllers (Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter, writes).

There was no sign of this decline being reversed, and "the inevitable fatigue created by longer working hours with fewer fatigue breaks, at more demanding traffic levels, will soon take its toll of physical and mental well-being," the guild said.

At Luton, four flights due to leave at about 8pm on Tuesday to Crete, Patmos, Cyprus, and Corfu were not scheduled to leave until 9am yesterday.

Mrs Sue Shepherd, from

Manchester, who was flying to Cyprus with her three children, described Tuesday night as terrible. "Some holiday companies have put people in hotels, but I was told that I was regarded as being local, which is absolutely ridiculous. I have had nowhere to look after the children, nowhere to clean up."

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Mrs Sue Shepherd, from



Rest but precious little recreation for Miss Jane Emmitt, aged 23, from Surrey, awaiting a holiday flight to Greece in a quiet corner at Gatwick yesterday. Photograph: Nick Rogers.

US 'gave terror warning'

Continued from page 1

Rashid's extradition. Washington has been attempting to bring him to the United States over his involvement in the blowing-up of a Pan Am airliner from Tokyo to Honolulu in 1982. He is also suspected of taking part in a similar attack on a TWA passenger plane flying from Rome to Athens in 1986.

Mr Michael Armacost, the US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, said yesterday during a Worldnet press conference: "We still do have very strong interest in the extradition of Rashid."

He added that the US had not seen "any evidence" to suggest a link between the attack and Tehran, in revenge for the shooting down of the Iran Air Airbus, but he emphasized that Washington

was still not clear who was behind the action.

According to US sources, Rashid is a member of a military branch of the Palestine Liberation Organization, headed by Colonel Hawari, who was expelled from Iraq in June, 1987. Intelligence sources believe the group may have forged links with the hardline break-away faction led by Abu Nidal, responsible for the Rome and Vienna airport massacres of 1985 and the attack on Western targets in Khartoum earlier this year.

Rashid's trial had been postponed until July 27 because of a prisoner wardens' strike. But the Greek Government stepped in and ordered the case to be heard at once. The court was unable to locate an Arabic interpreter, and the

hearing had to be adjourned.

Rashid, answering reporters' questions in court, dismissed suggestions that the attack on the cruise ship had anything to do with his case.

He alleged: "It was staged by the United States to ruin Greek tourism."

The Greek security authorities were still looking for three Arabs, whose photographs were released on Tuesday, said to be connected with the terrorist attack.

Cabinet anger at Rover deal hitch

Continued from page 1

cost of conceding to the EEC control over anything — including the Government's pet privatization projects — which might still be called British industrial policy."

Mr Gould said that if BAE decided, as now seemed in doubt, to go ahead with the deal as reconstructed in Brussels Lord Young would be shown to have offered them £250 million more than they were prepared to accept.

"Why was the EEC so much more effective a negotiator on behalf of the British taxpayer than the Secretary of State? Why was he so profligate with taxpayers' money?" But if BAE pulled out, where

was the fallback position for the British volume car industry, for which Labour had pressed?

Did not Rover's excellent results yesterday show what could be achieved, under public ownership? "And do they not demonstrate that this ill-starred foray into privatization is an expensive and short-sighted policy?"

The Labour spokesman said that the tax arrangement whereby BAE hoped to use Rover's tax losses to offset their own price liabilities could fall foul of the new Corporation Tax Act and asked if that might not be the potential illegality worrying BAE.

Commons sketch

When politics has its ups and downs

Mr Kenneth Clarke has the habit, not uncommon in pre-school masters, but rather more rare in politicians, of for ever pulling up his trousers and re-tucking his shirt. Skilled anthropologists suggest that this can signify either some sort of personal embarrassment or a poor tailor. Now that Mr Clarke's salary is perfectly reasonable, the suggestion of a poor tailor must be discounted. This leaves personal embarrassment.

Down and up went Mr Clarke's trousers yesterday, and tuck, tuck, tuck went his hands. His personal embarrassment had become uncomfortably public. He had been expecting to deliver a message to the House confirming the British Aerospace takeover of the Rover Group. Instead, he had to deliver a message saying that British Aerospace had just told him that they hadn't quite made up their minds yet. See those trousers fall!

Mr Bryan Gould attempted to pull them off entirely, tugging at them with all his most trusted terms of condemnation. Were Mr Bryan Gould a disc jockey, he would undoubtedly be in the mould of Mr David Jacobs, easing his way into smoochy well-loved favourites in smooth, reassuring tones. Yesterday, these "You Have Loved" included "An Unholy Mess", "This Sorry Episode", "This Brief and Astonishing Statement" and, yes, that marvelous golden oldie from veteran handleader Ted Heath, "The Unacceptable Face of Capitalism". As is so often the case when old tunes are played, the audience immediately dozed off.

"My statement may have been short but it was not in the least embarrassing," replied Mr Clarke, pull, pull, tuck, tuck. On this awful radio station which is to be populated by defunct politicians, Mr Clarke might well be the bluff, don't-bother-me-with-your-whining, presenter of the early-morning phone-in. Even on the best of days, he replies to Opposition members with a sort of smiling disdain.

But the Bash Street Kids were now laughing those heads off, as rough lads are

prone to do. Every word uttered by Mr Clarke was greeted with uncontrolled roars of merriment, with jolly Mr Frank Dobson rocking in his seat like a toy with a spherical bottom. Things were in danger of getting out of hand and, whenever that happens, the door flies open to reveal Mr Quack, cane squarer, withering remark at hand.

Mr Norman Tebbit — for it was he — pointed his finger at Mr Gould, for whom he seems to enjoy an ill-disguised contempt. Ill-disguised? Why, Mr Tebbit would never go to the trouble to disguise any contempt. It preferring to parade it, festooned in ribbons. First, he complained of Mr Gould's "usual attitude" before complaining that "The Hon Member for Dagenham" — he enunciated the word "Dagenham" as if it were a form of household germ — "will denounce the deal whether it goes ahead or whether it doesn't".

The class seemed a little more hushed as quickly returned to his seat. Mr Andrew Smith (Lab., Oxford East) wished to take over Mr Gould's play-off offering "Breath-taking Incompetence". "Mammoth Incompetence" was the favourite that, sweeping the length and breadth of the country, "Hasn't The Government Made a Mess of This?"

"You cannot reasonably cast doubts on the Government's position," said Mr Clarke, now leaning matter-of-factly on the despatch box as if it were the garden fence. With only a few minutes of interrogation to go, he seemed certain to leave the Chamber a happy man. But then the most awful thing happened. Mr Tam Dalyell chose to take his side. "Having spent 25 years involved with the motor industry, and knowing how they can change their minds at the last minute, he has my personal sympathy," he boomed. Dalyell's personal sympathy! Nothing so embarrassing had ever happened to Mr Clarke before. Tuck, tuck, pull, pull.

Craig Brown

North Sea oilmen saved

By David Sapped and David Cross

Twenty-one oil workers and a crew aboard a North Sea oilfield helicopter that was forced to make an emergency sea landing off the Shetlands yesterday were rescued unhurt from their life-rafts.

A coastguard spokesman said the helicopter, a Sikorsky S61, ditched into the sea 17 miles east of Lerwick, Shetland, and landed upright and afloat, and with weather conditions described as reasonable its occupants were able to board the life-rafts.

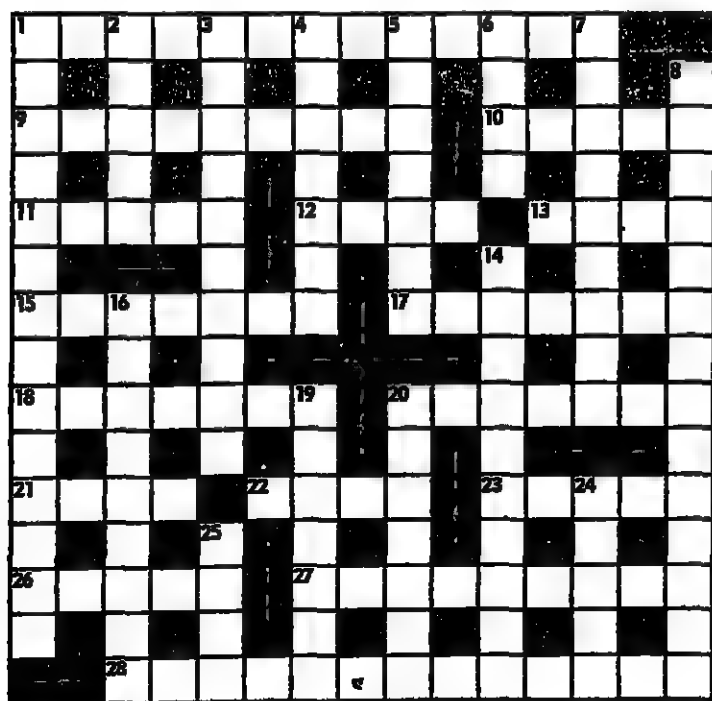
A coastguard helicopter

from Sumburgh, which led a full-scale air and sea rescue operation, winched all 21 of the men on board after jettisoning some of its fuel to reduce weight.

A Civil Aviation Authority team is to begin an immediate inquiry.

The Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union said the helicopter incident, coming after the Piper Alpha explosion, was "another manifestation of the shambles which goes by the name of safety". It would undermine the morale of North Sea workers.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,721



- ACROSS**
- 1 Quiet 25's close relative employed in making buttons (6-2-5).
 - 9 Like some remote regions and unsuccessful pop songs? (9).
 - 10 Abandoned son in Cornish fishing port (5).
 - 11 It is swallowed up in the levy (5).
 - 12 A supporter used on the set? (4).
 - 13 Display mostly evoking an expression of envy (4).
 - 15 These exponents take great risks, covered by insurance? (7).
 - 17 Establishments where boxers may receive training (7).
 - 18 Ascetics' qualities do not include the first sign of charity? (7).
 - 20 Rendered almost impotent as a result of Spanish peppers? (7).
 - 21 Some soldiers are not dense (4).
 - 22 Said of shepherds who renounce the past (4).
 - 23 East Ender's wife like Queen Wilhelmina (5).
 - 26 English poet said to be sound (5).
 - 27 It means endless trouble for Peter and Paul (9).
 - 28 Race for which garden centre has the finishing posts? (7,6).

- DOWN**
- 1 One may reach one's peak in this activity (14).
 - 2 Thanks to the Head of Classics, it's understood (5).
 - 3 Welshman to note on the track, getting away very quickly (10).
 - 4 Work after a month for one putting out feelers? (7).
 - 5 Security device father left in the yard (7).
 - 6 Chopper seen around many a centre of revolution (4).
 - 7 A lad 1 once converted — Luke-warm in religion (9).
 - 8 Faust's sole beneficiary, do we hear? (14).
 - 14 Comment critically about talking bird on commercial (10).
 - 16 Desolate island without a flight (9).
 - 19 Have qualms about very little at one time (7).
 - 20 Animal captured and killed when eating a man's horse (7).
 - 24 The main body, or just the chest? (5).
 - 25 Look closely at a bridge support, say (4).

Concise crossword, page 22

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct? By Philip Howard

- LIMBERHAM**
a. Marmalade-cured ham
b. A leaping creep
c. Floating voters
- SALTARELLO**
a. A dance duet
b. Anchovy paste
c. A bullfighter's assistant
- FREIT**
a. Grantham for scared
b. A cargo or load
c. A superstition
- TRANSHUMANACE**
a. Transference of souls
b. Seasonal movements
c. Transubstantiation

Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,720

REBUTTER CASHEW
SALON TOASTRACK
T D U R C E R A I
C H A P J A K R O D I N
U A P A T U N C I G
R E I G H T E R P O M P I T
E L E R I T P I N G O E R S
S O O O O S L
U P P E R P E R C A P I T A
M I S I N F O R M G R E E D
I E D G E U N E
T H R E A D I N V E N T O R

WEATHER A well developed depression slow moving in the central North Sea means the unseasonable weather will continue, particularly over eastern districts with frequent showers and the likelihood of thunder. Further west there will be more sunshine, but, with a stiff northwesterly breeze it will be a cool day with temperatures only reaching average along sheltered parts of the south coast. Outlook: further showers in the east, sunny spells in the west, becoming a little warmer.

ABROAD		AROUND BRITAIN	
Madrid	21.0	London	18.0
Paris	19.0	Edinburgh	14.0
Rome	24.0	Belfast	12.0
Amsterdam	15.0	Cardiff	11.0
Brussels	16.0	Manchester	13.0
Frankfurt	17.0	Sheffield	12.0
Hamburg	18.0	Nottingham	11.0
Berlin	19.0	Leeds	10.0
Munich	20.0	Sheff	9.0
Stockholm	15.0	Cardiff	8.0
Copenhagen	16.0	Manchester	7.0
Oslo	17.0	Sheffield	6.0
Stockholm	18.0	Nottingham	5.0
Oslo	19.0	Leeds	4.0
Stockholm	20.0	Sheff	3.0
Oslo	21.0	Cardiff	2.0
Stockholm	22.0	Manchester	1.0
Oslo	23.0	Sheffield	0.0
Stockholm	24.0	Nottingham	-1.0
Oslo	25.0	Leeds	-2.0
Stockholm	26.0	Sheff	-3.0
Oslo	27.0	Cardiff	-4.0
Stockholm	28.0	Manchester	-5.0
Oslo	29.0	Sheffield	-6.0
Stockholm	30.0	Nottingham	-7.0
Oslo	31.0	Leeds	-8.0
Stockholm	32.0	Sheff	-9.0
Oslo	33.0	Cardiff	-10.0
Stockholm	34.0	Manchester	-11.0
Oslo	35.0	Sheffield	-12.0
Stockholm	36.0	Nottingham	-13.0
Oslo	37.0	Leeds	-14.0
Stockholm	38.0	Sheff	-15.0
Oslo	39.0	Cardiff	-16.0
Stockholm	40.0	Manchester	-17.0
Oslo	41.0	Sheffield	-18.0
Stockholm	42.0	Nottingham	-19.0
Oslo	43.0	Leeds	-20.0
Stockholm	44.0	Sheff	-21.0
Oslo	45.0	Cardiff	-22.0
Stockholm	46.0	Manchester	-23.0
Oslo	47.0	Sheffield	-24.0
Stockholm	48.0	Nottingham	-25.0
Oslo	49.0	Leeds	-26.0
Stockholm	50.0	Sheff	-27.0
Oslo	51.0	Cardiff	-28.0
Stockholm	52.0	Manchester	-29.0
Oslo	53.0	Sheffield	-30.0
Stockholm	54.0	Nottingham	-31.0
Oslo	55.0	Leeds	-32.0
Stockholm	56.0	Sheff	-33.0
Oslo	57.0	Cardiff	-34.0
Stockholm	58.0	Manchester	-35.0
Oslo	59.0	Sheffield	-36.0
Stockholm	60.0	Nottingham	-37.0
Oslo	61.0	Leeds	-38.0
Stockholm	62.0	Sheff	-39.0
Oslo	63.0	Cardiff	-40.0
Stockholm	64.0	Manchester	-41.0
Oslo	65.0	Sheffield	-42.0
Stockholm	66.0	Nottingham	-43.0
Oslo	67.0	Leeds	-44.0
Stockholm	68.0	Sheff	-45.0
Oslo	69.0	Cardiff	-46.0
Stockholm	70.0	Manchester	-47.0
Oslo	71.0	Sheffield	-48.0
Stockholm	72.0	Nottingham	-49.0
Oslo	73.0	Leeds	-50.0
Stockholm	74.0	Sheff	-51.0
Oslo	75.0	Cardiff	-52.0
Stockholm	76.0	Manchester	-53.0
Oslo	77.0	Sheffield	-54.0
Stockholm	78.0	Nottingham	-55.0
Oslo	79.0	Leeds	-56.0
Stockholm	80.0	Sheff	-57.0
Oslo	81.0	Cardiff	-58.0
Stockholm	82.0	Manchester	-59.0
Oslo	83.0	Sheffield	-60.0
Stockholm	84.0	Nottingham	-61.0
Oslo	85.0	Leeds	-62.0
Stockholm	86.0	Sheff	-63.0
Oslo	87.0	Cardiff	-64.0
Stockholm	88.0	Manchester	-65.0
Oslo	89.0	Sheffield	-66.0
Stockholm	90.0	Nottingham	-67.0
Oslo	91.0	Leeds	-68.0
Stockholm	92.0	Sheff	-69.0
Oslo	93.0	Cardiff	-70.0
Stockholm	94.0	Manchester	-71.0
Oslo	95.0	Sheffield	-72.0
Stockholm	96.0	Nottingham	-73.0
Oslo	97.0	Leeds	-74.0
Stockholm	98.0	Sheff	-75.0
Oslo	99.0	Cardiff	-76.0
Stockholm	100.0	Manchester	-77.0

THE POUND	
Australia	2.21
Canada	1.25
France	6.55
Germany	2.36
Italy	1.36
Japan	163.00
Netherlands	2.20
Spain	166.00
Sweden	4.66
Switzerland	2.00
USA	1.51
Yugoslavia	27.00

AM

PM

LONDON

MANCHESTER

TOWER BRIDGE

HIGHEST & LOWEST

POLLEN COUNT

LIGHTING-UP TIME

YESTERDAY

NOON TODAY

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1500.8 (+6.5)	US dollar 1.8910 (-0.0045)
FT-SE 100 1871.3 (+12.8)	W German mark 3.1233 (+0.0087)
USM (Datastream) 164.86 (+0.08)	Trade-weighted 75.1 (+0.1)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Woolwich may appeal on ruling

The Woolwich Building Society is likely to appeal against a ruling given at Exeter Crown Court which allows the Inland Revenue to keep £8 million in interest to which the Woolwich claimed it was entitled.

The money is interest payable on £57 million in tax which was returned by the Revenue to the Woolwich last year after a High Court judgement. The Woolwich had successfully claimed it was unfairly collected.

Mr Justice Nolan said that in collecting the tax, the Revenue's "ultra vires" action has thus been instrumental in obtaining from the Woolwich the equivalent of an enormous interest-free loan.

He added that case law did not require the Revenue to repay interest accruing on unauthorized tax demands.

Peachey sells EPIC stake

Peachey Property Corporation, which is discussing a takeover bid from Wereld-haven, the Dutch group, has finally withdrawn from the battle for control of Estates Property Investment Company, and sold its 34.2 per cent interest in EPIC to the rival Gilvort group.

Gilvort will pay Peachey the same 275p a share paid to those who accepted its bid, valuing Peachey's stake at some £23 million compared with its cost price of £21.7 million.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2085.70 (+5.94)
Dow Jones	2085.70 (+5.94)
Nikkei Average	28020.10 (+78.74)
Hong Kong	2744.85 (+27.88)
Amsterdam Gen	365.15 (+0.25)
Sydney AO	1618.4 (-0.3)
Frankfurt	1467.2 (+20.3)
Brussels	4932.3 (+23.2)
Paris CAC	4715.1 (+1.7)
Zurich SCA Gen	4715.1 (+1.7)
London	
FT 30 Share	1500.8 (+6.5)
FT 100	1871.3 (+12.8)
FT 1000	2181.1 (+10.9)
FT 10000	2734.1 (+10.9)
FT 100000	2734.1 (+10.9)
FT 1000000	2734.1 (+10.9)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Shares	
British Airways	525p (+15p)
British Telecom	315p (+20p)
British Petroleum	500p (+17p)
British Steel	625p (+17p)
British Sugar	365p (+14p)
British Airways	525p (+15p)
British Telecom	315p (+20p)
British Petroleum	500p (+17p)
British Steel	625p (+17p)
British Sugar	365p (+14p)
British Airways	525p (+15p)
British Telecom	315p (+20p)
British Petroleum	500p (+17p)
British Steel	625p (+17p)
British Sugar	365p (+14p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	10%
3-month interbank	10.5%
3-month eligible bills	9.5%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	9%
Federal Funds	7.5%
3-month Treasury Bills	6.71-6.70%
30-year bonds	10.5%-10.1%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.8910	\$ £1.8910
DM 3.1233	DM 3.1233
FF 166.63	FF 166.63
¥ 160.36	¥ 160.36
₣ 6.5596	₣ 6.5596
₡ 20.4804	₡ 20.4804
₧ 200.48	₧ 200.48
₪ 1.3636	₪ 1.3636
₯ 136.36	₯ 136.36
₱ 46.3636	₱ 46.3636
₹ 46.3636	₹ 46.3636

GOLD

London Fixing	New York
AM \$436.20 pm \$436.00	AM \$436.20 pm \$436.00
COMEX \$436.25-436.75 (2558.00-2558.50)	COMEX \$436.25-436.75 (2558.00-2558.50)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug.)	pm \$14.05bbl (\$14.00)
Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES

STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

Market news on Stockwatch yesterday included: Yale and Valor (02534), still boosted by stake speculation, rose 18p; Nurdin and Peacock (02778) gained 10p after a brokers' meeting; Ranks Hovis (01161) jumped 8p on a possible offer.

Recent additions include: Hi-tech Sports 03333; Reject Shop 03340; British Sugar 1044 deb 03334; Appleby Westward 03173.

Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

City braced for sharp fall in Bae

By John Bell, City Editor

The City is bracing itself for a substantial fall in the British Aerospace share price when dealings resume after suspension — whether or not the Rover deal goes ahead.

On the latest European Commission proposals, BAE shares would be marked down by roughly 10 per cent when share trading resumes, say market-makers. This would reflect the reduction in the subsidy to Rover insisted upon by the Commission.

But the fall in the share price will be more severe if the Rover deal eventually falls, they agreed. The shares were suspended yesterday morning at 470p.

Analysts say the controversial £150 million government sale of Rover is in the balance, after the eleventh-hour decision by British Aerospace to halt the purchase.

News that Professor Roland Smith, the BAE chairman, is asking for more time to consider the tough new terms from the Commission came little more than an hour before the expected completion of the deal.

"It was a total surprise," said Mr John McGee, engineering analyst at Warburg Securities. Mr Robert Speed at Phillips & Drew, the broker, said: "No one was expecting the deal to stall at this late stage. We must now regard the deal as in the balance."

City opinion accepts that the terms announced by the Commission are far more severe than expected. But there is overwhelming support for the purchase — even on the new terms. "In the short term there is a fantastic benefit to British Aerospace," said Mr

Ian Wild, engineering analyst at BZW, the securities arm of Barclays Bank.

Sources close to the deal were hinting last night that a number of details in what is referred to as the "fine print" of the EC conditions have significant implications for BAE. "The management is having to go through a process of due diligence in the interests of its shareholders before it can put its name to anything," said one insider last night.

Professor Smith's forceful assertion that he would not accept a purchase of Rover unless it is free of debt is not

Comment

thought to be a big stumbling block, despite the Commission's insistence that £100 million of working capital finance must remain.

There are thought to be a number of ways that the debt could be offset against improvements to the terms called for by the Commission. BAE asked for its shares to be suspended, and said later that it had only just been informed that the Commission's proposals "may involve additional terms and conditions which are material in assessing their acceptability."

The company conveyed the impression that it regarded the EC's final terms as a serious obstacle to completion of the acquisition, and is leaving open the possibility that it may eventually walk away from the deal.

The company said: "British Aerospace will be seeking further clarification of these terms and conditions, and when the details are known its

directors will consider what action to take."

Among the EC conditions was a bigger than expected cut of £331 million in the planned £800 million cash injection by the Government. The Commission said it also wanted a limit of £500 million on a tax deal that would allow British Aerospace to use accumulated Rover losses after the purchase went through.

Mr Peter Sutherland, European Commissioner for competition, said the tax deal would allow BAE only to offset taxes against future Rover profits, not against future BAE profits.

Mr Sutherland said he did not know whether the new terms would be acceptable to BAE. He added that Rover plants in areas eligible for regional aid, under schemes already approved by the Commission, would be able to receive government financial help worth up to 20 per cent of their total investments over the next four years. But the Commission had decided that such state aid would have to be limited to a maximum of £78 million.

Analysts say that if the new terms are accepted as they stand, BAE would produce a substantial earnings gain this year, with the full benefits coming through in 1989. The balance sheet would also gain from a boost to net assets of between £700 million and £800 million.

But they also pointed out that BAE's bargaining strength had been considerably improved by the substantial Saudi Arabian defence contract announced last week, and the favourable changes in the sterling/dollar exchange rate since the Rover deal was first mooted.

Rover best since 1979

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Rover Group made a pre-tax profit of £7.1 million for the first six months of 1988, its best financial performance since 1979.

Despite a cut in export revenue of 14 per cent to £460 million, due to the strong pound and losses in its Sterling sales operation in the United States, Rover managed a £47 million turnaround from a pre-tax loss of £39.9 million for the first half of 1987.

Austin Rover has followed a £5.1 million operating profit for the 12 months of 1987 with a £17.5 million profit in the first six months of 1988, a £33.9 million improvement on its position for the first half of last year.

The five-week strike at Land Rover is reputed to have cost the company £25 million, yet profits in the first half held up at £10.8 million compared with £7.5 million.

The group's car sales,

including Range Rover, improved by 6 per cent to 166,668 in Britain in the first half, and vehicle production for Austin Rover and Land Rover climbed from 246,000 to 281,000. Mr Graham Day, Rover chairman, said production of Range Rover was at record levels.

Rover's half-year results, published some weeks ahead of schedule, revealed an operating profit of £19.9 million.

BCI may have needed dealers licence

By Lawrence Lever

The inquiry into the Department of Trade's handling of the Barlow Clowes affair is to examine whether the department should have licensed and monitored the company's Gibraltar operations in which investors face losses of more than £100 million.

Investors would have substantially more chance of recovering their money back if Sir Godfrey Le Queux QC, who heads the inquiry, rules that the DTI was responsible for Barlow Clowes International, the Gibraltar arm.

Government ministers have hinted that BCI was genuinely operated offshore and so did

not fall within the DTI's regulatory powers.

But remarks by Mr Frances Maude, corporate affairs minister, reported in Hansard, have thrown into question the scope of the DTI's responsibilities in the affair. He said: "BCI's view was apparently that it was not carrying on business in this country. Accordingly, it did not seek a licence or other authorization under the old Act... Whether my department had reason to believe that it, BCI, should have had a licence will have to be judged on the facts that will be answered in Sir Godfrey's report."

On the evidence available it

appears that all the losses sustained by investors in the Barlow Clowes crash relate to the Gibraltar operation, which was never licensed. This was because BCI claimed to operate offshore and only marketed itself in the UK through intermediaries.

However, the vital test is whether it was carrying on business in the UK. If it was, the DTI ought to have licensed and monitored it — or closed it down.

Since the Barlow Clowes affair broke it has emerged that the Gibraltar headquarters of BCI was merely a marketing and administration centre. According to docu-

ments obtained by *The Times*, the investment decisions were to be made by Mr Peter Clowes, who is a UK resident, and a Jersey partnership called Barlow Clowes & Partners. However, there is evidence to suggest that even the Jersey partnership had ceased to exist at the time the management agreement for BCI was signed.

Also likely to be relevant to whether a licence was required is the fact that almost all the directors of BCI were resident in the UK and that tens of millions of the BCI money was lent to private and public companies operating in the UK.

Inflation fear prompts Greenspan to squeeze targets

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, yesterday announced a significant tightening of US monetary policy to counter inflationary pressures which he said had intensified in recent weeks. The decision was interpreted by markets as a move toward higher interest rates before the presidential elections.

Stating his belief that the Fed would be "well advised to err on the side of restrictiveness rather than of stimulus," Mr Greenspan said the central bank had decided to lower its 1989 monetary targets by a full point for the M2 indicator and by half a percentage point for the M3 indicator. The range for domestic, non-financial debt was also lowered by half a point. The 1988 targets were unchanged.

The signal to markets that the Fed saw inflation as a growing threat that would be countered by appropriate changes in monetary policy

was seen as the most important statement yet made by Mr Greenspan.

But he cautioned, in his semi-annual report to Congress, that the new targets could be changed at any time. He also said that, although interest rates had risen recently, it did not "necessarily follow that they will continue to do so."

Senators on the Banking Committee expressed alarm, however, that the provisional tightening could plunge the economy into recession as a new president was taking office.

Some expressed concern that the world was moving toward a period of high interest rates which would trigger a recession but Mr Greenspan said that he knew of no plans at this time for foreign central banks to raise their interest rates.

He said that the new target ranges, from 3 per cent to 7 per cent for M2, and from 3.5 per



Alan Greenspan: restrictive

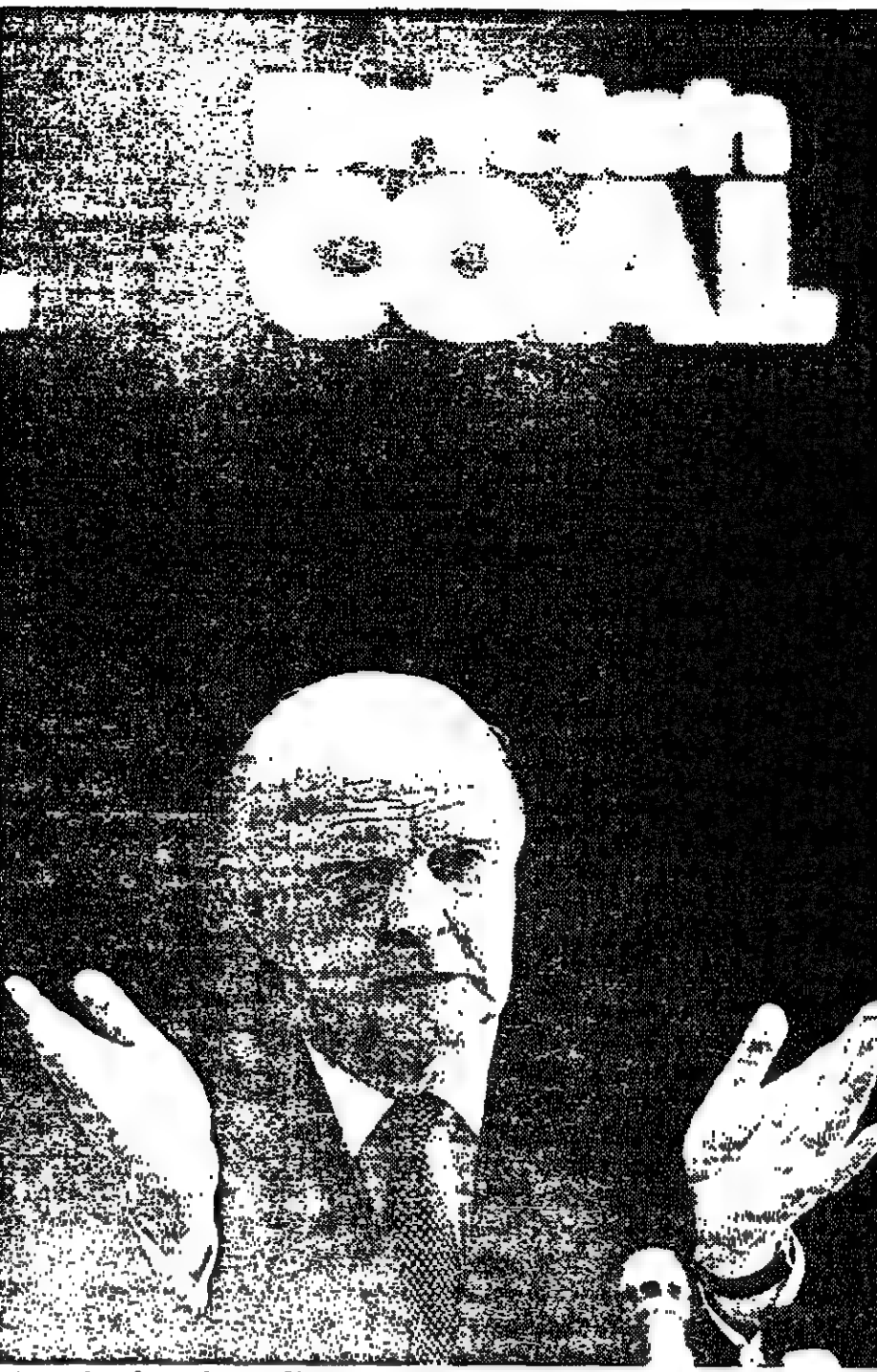
cent to 7.5 per cent for M3 were consistent with steady growth in which inflation would be held in check. The targets, he said, would curb any tendency for inflation to worsen and would contribute over time to the restoration of price stability.

His general assessment of the US economy at the mid-year was optimistic. Growth from the fourth quarter of 1987 to the fourth quarter of

this year was revised upward from 2.75 per cent to 3 per cent from the estimate of 2 per cent to 2.5 per cent. Growth in 1988, however, was projected at 2 per cent to 2.5 per cent, lower than the Administration's estimate of 3.3 per cent.

Inflation was estimated at from 3 per cent to 3.75 per cent in 1988 and at 3 per cent to 4.5 per cent in 1989. Mr Greenspan also predicted continued gains in employment which have resulted in the lowest US jobless rate in 14 years. The 5.3 per cent US unemployment rate is one of the primary reasons the Fed concern over renewed inflation has intensified. Although wage increases have remained low, officials fear that demands for higher wages will intensify, triggering a wage-price spiral.

Mr Greenspan, noting the volatile economic movements over the past year said that several factors had convinced the central bank that it should not fall behind in establishing



A question of privatization: Sir Robert Haslam, yesterday (Photograph: James Morgan)

British Coal 'on course for selloff' despite £540m loss

By Derek Harris

Despite a deep plunge into losses in its last financial year, British Coal could break even this year for the first time in more than a decade, leaving it in about the same position as British Steel three years ago.

Thus British Coal could well be ready for privatization after the next election, as envisaged by the Government.

This was the claim from Sir Robert Haslam, British Coal's chairman, when announcing the financial results for the year to March — but he underlined this presupposed no important industrial relations problems.

There was an implicit warning to the leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers, that while the NUM was still against a deal on six-

day flexible working, ad hoc arrangements to have specific non-recurring tasks done at local pit level were spreading through the industry.

The loss for the year was £540 million against £288

million the previous year. This was before an offset of a £200 million deficit grant from the Government.

The operating profit for the latest 12 months, which Sir

Robert maintained was the industry's main financial performance indicator, was £216 million (£369 million). This operating profit had worsened by just over 40 per cent because of two adverse factors.

One was a loss of £100 million from the effects of overtime bans by the NUM and the colliery deputies' union, Nacods. There was also more than £100 million paid out by the corporation in price concessions to customers to offset the effects of currency changes.

First-quarter results in the current year were putting the corporation on track to make an operating profit of £500 million this year.

Since the end of the first quarter there had been further improvements which pointed to an operating profit of £600 million, Sir Robert added.

Goodman ready to bid £1.5bn for RHM

By Colin Campbell

Ranks Hovis McDougall, the maker of Hovis brown bread, Bisto products, Saxa table salt and a host of other food items, was yesterday put on immediate bid alert after Goodman Fielder Wartie, the Australian food conglomerate and Australia's largest bread maker, announced it was "currently considering making a general offer for the company."

Goodman Fielder, which already holds 29.4 per cent of RHM, said that if a full bid did materialize — and the group's formal statement emphasized that it was too early to say whether any definitive offer would be made — then it would be at a level not materially different from RHM's share price of 445p.

Goodman Fielder does, however, reserve its right to raise its offer if a counter-bid were to emerge.

RHM, which is capitalized at £1.56 billion, advanced from 440p to 450p.

Its board said that it would not make any comment unless and until an offer was actually made. RHM added that if a formal offer were made, "it would not be welcome."

Goodman Fielder's statement, issued with the blessing of the Takeover Panel, struck a number of City analysts as ambiguous and others as "desperate" in that it suggests that Goodman Fielder has yet to finalize its package.

It is understood that Goodman Fielder had planned to approach RHM next week in the hope of securing a boardroom recommendation, and that, should a full bid materialize, it would be for cash with a loan note alternative.

Goodman Fielder would not have to dispose of assets to fund the takeover, though how the bid is to be balanced between cash and borrowings has yet to be decided.

There is no love lost between the two groups, which are significant players in their own respective markets.

Goodman Fielder has a market capitalization of Aus\$2.7 billion (£1.26 billion), it last reported a turnover for the year ended June 1987 of Aus\$2.7 billion, and a pre-tax profit of Aus\$244 million.

RHM achieved a turnover of £1.5 billion and a pre-tax profit of £116.1 million in its year ended August 1987. In its latest half year, to March 5, pre-tax profits rose from a comparable £52.9 million to £72.5 million.

There have been informal talks between both boards since 1986 but RHM has consistently denied the Australian's request for boardroom representation.

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THE DISCERNING PERSON'S GUIDE TO LONDON

THE PERFUMER

English flower perfume makers?
There's only Juan.

"He who frequents the perfumer's shop and lingers even a short time will carry with him the scent of the place," wrote Seneca in AD 64.

The perfume must have gone to his head, for surely this was a futuristic dream of Floris, 89 Jermyn Street, SW1.

Established in 1730 by a young Spaniard, Juan Famenias Floris, the secrets of providing English flower perfumes to douse the smells of the English Unwashed are still continued 200 years later by the eighth generation.

The unhurried and courteous atmosphere of the old fashioned shop still pervades.

As indeed does the atmosphere of Le Meridien Hotel in Piccadilly.

The very essence of luxury and refinement. There are no airs and graces, more a gracious air.

Linger a short time, breathe it all in. A stay here makes scents.

Le MERIDIEN HOTEL PICCADILLY

21 PICCADILLY, LONDON W1V 0BH TEL: 01-734 8000. TRAVEL COMPANION OF AIR FRANCE.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Union Discount lifts its interim dividend

Union Discount Company of London, the discount house, yesterday reported a significant drop in interim profits for the first six months of this year because of volatile interest-rate movements during the period. It has, however, recommended an increase in the dividend from 11.33p to 11.5p. Although bank base rates rose slightly early in the year they subsequently fell and then rose again in rapid stages to a higher level than six months ago.

The company said that in these transient conditions, extreme and often unpredictable swings made markets exceptionally difficult to interpret. It said that it had continued its strategy of expanding into related areas with the purchase of market-making and leasing operations.

£2m buy for Thorntons

Thorntons, the quality chocolate and confectionery group, is buying Garter Pralines, the Belgian chocolate maker, for £2 million. Of the amount £310,000 will be paid on Garter meeting its profit target of about £295,000 for 1988. Thorntons, which began as a family sweet shop in 1911, was floated on the Stock Exchange in May.

Prudential purchase

Prudential Corporation has bought John Stait & Sons, a firm of estate agents. It brings to 773 the number of offices in England and Wales run by Prudential Property Services. The acquisition is for an undisclosed sum in cash and shares. Stait has outlets in Warwick, Kingston and Leamington Spa, in the Midlands.

Ransomes Sims grows

Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, the lawnmower maker, is strengthening its Italian operation with a 1,620 million lire (£705,000) purchase and a new factory. It is buying BTS Green, a maker of rotary lawnmowers based near Milan in north Italy, through its subsidiary GD Mountfield. The acquisition will take place over the next three years.

BTS production will be transferred to the 28,000 sq ft factory being fitted at Barzago, also near Milan. Some of Mountfield's existing range of pedestrian rotary mowers will be made at Barzago.

BET acquires Celtic Cranes

BET, the industrial services group, has bought Celtic Cranes for £1.7 million in shares, loan stock and cash, to strengthen its construction plant hire operation. Celtic has five depots in Bristol and South Wales. The acquisition would add turnover of £1.4 million to BET's annual sales of £278 million.

Johnson Matthey

Johnson Matthey has asked us to make clear the company being investigated by the fraud squad in Johnson Matthey Bankers, which has not been part of the Johnson Matthey group since it was transferred to the Bank of England on October 1, 1984. Johnson Matthey itself is unconnected with any investigations into activities of Johnson Matthey Bankers.

Acis Group expands

Acis Group, the former jeweller transformed into a marketing services company, has further expanded its Ingleby Group subsidiary, which sells advertising space in hotel, theatre and cinema publications, with the £130,000 cash purchase of Consolidated Media, a seller of space on theatre ticket wallets.

Following the acquisition, Ingleby will have exclusive contracts with more than 260 theatres throughout Britain, the company said. United Media, a company similar to Consolidated Media, was bought in May, when the retail jewellery business was disposed of through a management buyout. Acis now has a dominant position in the theatre ticket wallet market.

Dixons on hard road to recovery

Some of Dixons' present difficulties have been caused by factors outside its control, but others arose closer to home.

The group's past success allowed self-examination to be kept to a minimum, so for Dixons to admit mistakes had been made and changes necessary has required a big adjustment.

This bodes well for the company's future although the timing of the recovery is still unclear.

The first eight weeks of the current year on the domestic retail front were down on the last year although July has been a bit better.

Margins are still depressed although off the bottom, but it is early days to feel sure they will recover to the healthy levels achieved in 1986-87.

Cost-cutting is under way by integrating Dixons and Currys while keeping their separate retailing identities. Apart from administrative savings, keener buying will enhance margins. The savings from this will, however, initially be absorbed by the costs of integrating the two businesses.

The price deflation which proved so damaging last year is showing signs of easing. But volumes are unlikely to show significant recovery until new products appear towards the end of the year. The market is waiting eagerly for lower priced camcorders and satellite dishes.

The US market is holding up well and Dixons is expanding through modestly sized

acquisitions and greenfield openings. But volatile currency movements may continue to effect profits on translation. A move into Europe is also being considered.

The new management team will take time to mature, although, in operating terms, the recent appointees are certainly technically up to scratch. It may take time, however, for a satisfactory strategy to take the group forward to be developed.

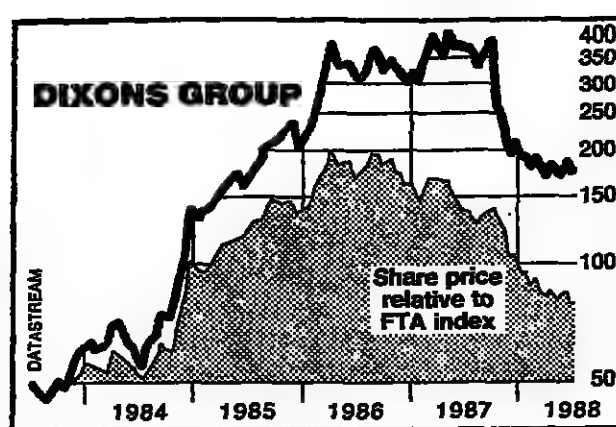
The Christmas selling period will, as always, be the make-or-break time for Dixons, thus the first-half figures are unlikely to show much progress. For the year as a whole, however, pre-tax profits of £120 million are achievable, putting the shares on 10 times earnings.

The shares make a classic recovery stock with all the inherent risks and rewards.

Cable and Wireless

Small shareholders in Cable and Wireless could be forgiven if they were disturbed by the news that a rival telecommunications network is to be set up in Hong Kong. For C&W generates the bulk of group profits from its exclusive franchises there.

The full implications of the decision will not become clear until the Hong Kong government delivers the long-awaited review of its telecoms



policy. This was expected before the summer holiday period, but the fact that the network decision was announced separately suggests it may not be ready until September.

The review will settle crucial matters such as the future of C&W's exclusive franchise to operate the local telephone network which expires in 1995 — two years before the transfer of sovereignty to China. C&W's international franchise expires in 2006, therefore an extension of local monopoly to the same year looks likely but by no means certain.

But will the franchise remain exclusive, will the British company's 75 per cent shareholding in the telephone operation be preserved after 1997, and will the royalties from high margin international business remain intact?

The network decision sounds threatening, but in the short term at least, is less likely to be so than some of the matters still to be determined by the review.

Tenders are to be invited for two licences: one to run the second network and another to operate a cable TV service. C&W's company will be prevented from offering cable TV via its own network and from taking a stake greater than 15 per cent in the second network. In practical terms this rules out C&W from both businesses.

Mr John Clarke, of McCaughan Dyson Capel-Cure, the broker, fears the new cable TV network could become a Trojan horse for the new franchisee, probably Hutchison Whampoa in partnership with British Telecom, to offer business-related services.

In the short run though, he expects minimal impact on

C&W's profitability. But an adverse outcome to the review may upset sentiment.

On a broader perspective, the broker sees an average 20 per cent profits growth for the next five years. This would seem to justify the current premium over the shares of the much more pedestrian BT. At 368p, C&W shares sell on a prospective earnings multiple of 13.4 times, falling to 11 times on 1990 projections. Ahead of the review, the ratings look up with events. But a favourable result could see further strong demand.

Stead & Simpson

The battle for Stead & Simpson looks like being close run, but will most probably end inconclusively with Clayform not quite gaining the 51 per cent of voting shares it needs for outright control.

Not that it is a foregone conclusion that Clayform will fail. Having bought a further 4.7 per cent in the past few days, it now has 40.3 per cent, and there are two business days left before the offer lapses on Saturday.

The voting shares, at £15.10, remain well above the £14.50 offer price. The price of the A non-voting shares has slumped to 116p, compared with the offer price of 151p.

Most shareholders own both classes of shares, and were it not for the family loyalty factor, the arithmetic

would look most compelling, notwithstanding the capital gains tax implications of Clayform's all-cash offer. Should the bid lapse on Saturday, there is every prospect that the A shares could drop to below 100p a share, implying a greater than 50p-a-share loss for the majority of shares that shareholders still own.

Win or lose, nothing will ever be quite the same again as far as the shoe retailer is concerned. Even if Clayform does not succeed in outright takeover, it will still have managed to buy more than 40 per cent of the voting control for an outlay of £3.3 million, less than 10 per cent of the total value of its £108 million bid. Surely this is not what was intended when the two-tier voting structure was created.

Stead & Simpson may argue that it has lived for years with a 29 per cent shareholder, but a shareholder with a block of more than 40 per cent is an entirely different matter. Clayform will certainly be able to exert significant influence on the board, and given it is never easy to muster votes from a large number of small shareholders, Clayform's block may even give it de facto control.

While buying voting shares, Clayform also bought 12 per cent of the A shares and has acceptances for a further 19 per cent. While it has not yet decided whether to keep the A shares, it will certainly keep the voting shares, remaining a permanent thorn in the flesh of Stead & Simpson.

CBI chief attacks rates threat to investment

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Mr John Banham, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), has attacked what he described as uncompetitive interest rates which his manufacturing profitability and threatened much-needed investment.

Mr Banham, in a London speech, said: "Having spent the last six months preventing the financial markets talking us into recession, we now have to prevent them talking us into inflation." Retail price inflation, excluding housing and the nationalized industries, in May this year was 3.9 per cent, almost exactly what it was a year ago, he said.

A similar situation existed with the annual rate of increase in manufacturing output prices (4.8 per cent up against 4.5 per cent a year ago).

He added: "It is unlikely that any inflationary upsurge will come from the manufacturing sector where competitive pressures are still strong."

"Our advice to the Government is to avoid over-reacting. They should continue to put faith in the very real improvement in manufacturing performance over the last decade."

The Budget tax cuts were a mistake because they fuelled consumer spending, he said.

Attenborough calls for freeze on Elstree plan

By Martin Walker

Sir Richard Attenborough, the country's most respected film director and maker of such epics as *Gandhi* and *A Bridge Too Far*, has called on the Government to put a preservation order on the apparently doomed Elstree film studios in Hertfordshire.

This would give the film industry time to put together a package to save Elstree and prevent its new owner, a consortium of property developers, from sending in the bulldozers once they take possession in October, Sir Richard said.

Such a package could include the American partnership of Mr George Lucas, the producer, and Mr Steven Spielberg, the director, he added, who would be in a position to promise to bring work to the studio.

Meanwhile, Mr Lucas reacted to suggestions that his plan to mount a rescue of the Elstree film studios was a publicity stunt.

"I'm interested in seeing that the film crews here in England, which we need to make films, are maintained," he said.

He said he had been approached by various people in the film world interested in putting money into a venture to keep film-making going at the studios, and the publicity given to his scheme was in no way an attempt to "curry favour" with the film unions.

Sir Richard said it was quite feasible for the film industry to put together a scheme which would allow part of the



Directing the rescue operation: Sir Richard Attenborough

29-acre site to be developed, giving the property consortium a profit on the deal, while the studios were retained.

But this would need time which could only be obtained by government action.

"I think it all depends on the backbone of the Government," he added. "My genuine fear is that we won't be given the opportunity, because the bulldozers will go in."

The Government's line, as given in the Commons last

Thursday by Mr John Birt, the industry minister, is that the situation at Elstree is a matter for its new owners and the regular planning authorities.

A meeting at the House of Lords today of the British Screen Advisory Council, representing the film and television industries, which Sir Richard is chairing, is likely to result in a unanimous call to the Government to put a temporary block on development at Elstree.

Bell asset sales could trigger the withdrawal of Bond bid

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Mr Alan Bond's Bond Corporation Holdings could withdraw its Aus\$670 million (£310 million) bid for Mr Robert Holmes & Court's Bell Group if Bell sells assets totalling Aus\$25 million. This was revealed yesterday when the formal takeover document (Part A) was registered.

The sale of a Aus\$500 million stake in BHP, the oil-steel-mining conglomerate, by Bell Resources, Bell Group's associate, would trigger this "escape clause".

Mr Holmes & Court said on Tuesday that an international brokers' syndicate formed to sell the stake had not been authorized by Bell.

It was also revealed yesterday that if the bid for Bell were aborted, Bond would

have to sell its current 19.9 per cent stake in Bell Group within two months. Such a sale would incur a substantial loss for Bond, given its relatively high entry price of Aus\$2.70, the same as the bid price.

This sale condition and others were agreed during negotiations between Bond and the National Companies and Securities Commission.

The NCSC demanded the "all or nothing" requirement before approving the registration of the Part A.

The bid is being funded by Midland Bank (Aus\$300 million), the Hongkong & Shanghai bank group (Aus\$350 million) and Bond's "internal sources".

The offer document dis-

closes that the takeover will cost Bond Aus\$670 million on the basis of full acceptance of the cash bid by eligible holders of fully-paid shares.

If the takeover goes ahead, Bell Group's asset-sale programme will be increased in a bid to eliminate all debt in Bell Group. The only assets Bond plans to keep are Bell Group's media interests and share-investments in Bell Resources and associate JN Taylor, and Dewey Warren, the British insurance broker.

The Part A says Bond had not reached a final view on the 15 per cent stake in Standard Chartered Bank, nor on whether the British property, theatre and cinema interests or the film library should be realized.

Quest rises to £3.3m on Soviet sales boom

By Our City Staff

Booming sales to the Soviet Union helped lift pre-tax profits at Quest Group, the Hampshire manufacturer of computer systems, by 46 per cent to £3.36 million in the year to end-February.

The Soviet Union accounts for about 60 per cent of the company's turnover. Quest now has about £30 million-worth of work there, said Mr Freddie Stirling, the chairman, and this could double or even treble quite easily over the next few years.

But glasnost and perestroika have not been of unalloyed benefit to the company, whose presence in the USSR goes back to 1970.

The reorganization and consequent arrival of new faces there has meant personal contacts have had to be forged afresh, and this has pushed back the timing of contract conclusions, Mr Stirling said.

"The growth we would expect from the Soviet Union will be partially delayed into the next financial year. The real growth will most likely come through in the year to February 1991," he added.

Quest, despite being the smallest of the eight British companies with an office in Moscow, reckons to have the largest organization out there, said Mr Stirling. It has just received permission to expand further.

The company said a number of large deals were at an advanced stage of negotiation with the Soviet authorities.

One of its aims is to import products made by other British companies into the USSR, where Quest can make its own contribution by adding an electronic maintenance element to the contract.

Results for 1987-88 show a contribution of £300,000 at the pre-tax level from January's acquisition of Grist Business Services, although this was subsequently cut back by £161,000 in extraordinary provisions for the expected costs of integration.

Fears of a flat return to the current year trimmed the shares back 8p to 91p, even though the figures were ahead of expectations.

Quest has agreed to buy Xtech and Xsoft, two Northampton suppliers of computer systems, in exchange for 600,000 new shares.

A final dividend of 1p boosts the year's total by 50 per cent to 1.5p.

All the confidence in the world.

Dixons Group plc is the world's leading specialist consumer electronics retailer.

Here are a few facts:*

- Group Sales £1679.6m.
- Pre-Tax Profit £103.1m.
- Over 1300 stores in the U.K. with over 2.1 million sq. ft.
- Over 160 stores in the U.S.A. with over 1.5 million sq. ft.
- Over 20,000 employees worldwide.
- Record profits achieved in Property and Financial Services Divisions.

Dixons Group plc

*Unaudited figures for 52 weeks ended 30th April 1988.

Dixons LDS Currys MITSUBISHI CARILLON TRUPRINT SupaSnaps MASTERCARD Sib

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Prince urges stronger trade links between Britain and Australia

By Colin Narthmore

The Prince of Wales and the British and Australian governments yesterday called for a renaissance in Anglo-Australian trade that would build on the long-standing cultural and commercial ties between the two countries.

The appeal came at a seminar in London on bilateral trade and investment, organized by the Australian British Chamber of Commerce to mark the bicentenary of white settlement in Australia.

The end of the Empire and Britain's increasing integration with continental Europe led to a decline in Anglo-Australian trade which many economists consider irreversible, but delegates at yesterday's meeting at the Inn on

the Park hotel saw a sea-change taking place. Sir James Balderstone, chairman of Broken Hill Proprietary, Australia's biggest company, said: "The economic tides are again running in favour of closer Anglo-Australian relationships."

The Prince said he was keen to enhance mutual trade and reinforce the things that unite Australia and Britain, as his royal role in both Commonwealth nations could not allow him solely to promote British exports.

He saw "enormous possibilities" for both countries in developing economic ties to better exploit the wider markets of the Pacific Basin and Europe. Collaboration in third countries was also worth investigating, he said.

Although Australia had far fewer companies operating in Britain than the 1,500 British companies in Australia, he said the Australians were making a "lot more noise."

He urged businessmen in both countries "to capitalize on close ties and common history, despite looking in different directions," expressing the hope that he would soon see "tangible results".

Underlining the need for the single European market, due for completion in 1992, to promote open markets and avoid creation of a "Fortress Europe", Lord Young of Gifford said Australia and Britain could work together to pursue free world trade on a broad front.

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who goes

to Australia next month on a trade-promoting mission, said Canberra now believed in the same principles as Britain, and was playing an important role in drawing attention to the damaging effect of agricultural subsidies.

Lord Young said the Government was determined not to allow 1992 to be used as an excuse for Europe to put up fresh barriers to trade, as this would eliminate the benefits of creating the internal EEC market. "We actually need a worldwide single market," he said.

Britain and Australia should meanwhile expand their bilateral trade and encourage further investment in each other's economies, turning to mutual advantage the identity of interest both had in international trade.

Mr Peter Morris, the Australian Minister for Transport, noted the reversal of traditional roles in two-way trade, with Australia, which formerly supplied commodities in return for manufactured goods, having established successful businesses in areas such as food processing, brewing, and publishing.

The effect was that Australian companies such as Fosters, TNT and Elders IXL were now household names in Britain, he said.

On the other hand, Australia was well placed on the western rim of the Pacific, the fastest growing area of the world, and could offer Britain good opportunities for investment. "We invite you to join forces with us - your investment is welcome."

COMMENT David Brewerton

The Professor parks his tanks on Young's lawn

Deal-a-day-David, otherwise known as Lord Young of Gifford, has met his match in Professor Roland Smith, chairman of British Aerospace. The deal of the decade has turned into the debacle of the day, if not the mess-up of the month.

At first sight, the Professor's lunchtime decision that the new terms dictated by the European Commission were unpalatable appears little more than sheer brinkmanship, and so it may be. On the other hand, it is more than likely that British Aerospace is doing no more than protect its shareholders' interests by looking at the implications of all the fine print in the contract to which Lord Young appended his seal of office yesterday. Due diligence, in other words.

The differences may, as Kenneth Clarke assured the House of Commons, be "not particularly important or material," but the change in the basis of the deal from that originally agreed is substantial. Instead of the agreed £800 million, the Rover dowry is cut by £331 million to £469 million, or £547 million including regional aid, although there are relaxations in the ceilings of tax losses which can be offset against future profits.

In anyone's language, £331 million is a great deal of money, and it makes little difference to British Aerospace whether the change is the result of tough dealing by Mr Peter Sutherland, the EEC competition commissioner, or by Lord Young. British Aerospace would need to

make a great many pairs of airbus wings or Rover a multitude of Maestros to make up the gap. But since those amounts have not changed for more than a week, and Lord Young yesterday morning believed he still had a deal, some other spider must have crawled from the bunch to frighten the Professor away.

The new numbers agreed with Brussels still stack up to a fancy deal for British Aerospace. Rover's results for the first half-year are at the top end of expectations, and suggest the car group is set for profits of £70 million this year. On that basis, the purchase price of £150 million is a princely 2.1 times earnings, the sort of rating that would make even Lord Hanson's best deal look sloppy. On such a rating, the Professor should be able to accept a bit of debt in the balance sheet, or at least be prepared to provide some working capital. Needless to say, British Aerospace earnings per share would be substantially enhanced.

But even the best deal, financially, is not necessarily attractive if the buyer does not have need of the goods. Since the deal was concocted over cocktails, not only has Rover returned to profit but also British Aerospace has fattened up its order book and is in less need of a short-term boost to profitability. The Professor may now be looking at the long-term commitment that Rover requires, not least in the development of new models, and wondering why he wanted to get into the car business at all.

RHM on takeover menu

The City is desperately hungry for takeover bids after relishing the juicy taste of Rowntree. Goodman Fielder Wattie was the hero yesterday for serving up Ranks Hovis McDougall as the next course.

This was hardly a surprise. The run-up of RHM shares as Goodman Fielder Wattie round for money may have forced its hand - but surely not by much. The cost of carrying almost 30 per cent of the shares of a bigger company is a strong spur to action.

The hunting of RHM may, however, not prove quite so rewarding as Rowntree. After consulting the Takeover Panel, Goodman has committed itself to not increasing its putative bid much beyond the current share price in the absence of a rival offer.

Given Goodman's strong lead, potential rivals more acceptable to Ranks may choose to wait and to see if RHM's Sir Peter Reynolds can successfully defend against the bid. On BZW's forecast of £150 million profit for the year just ending, this would value RHM at a little above 17 times earnings. That is possible for a company with a good recent record. But, if rivals play a waiting game, the real calculation for institutions will be whether it is worth

holding out in the hope that Goodman will sell its stake on if it fails.

In that sense, there is already only a modest chance of RHM remaining independent. This will not attract quite the same emotion as Rowntree since RHM was itself cast as the big, bad aggressor quite recently in its takeover of Avana - a move that, along with the October crash, has failed to deter the Antipodeans.

An easy victory for the aggressor would, however, be a pity since it would merely encourage the City to build up the next food-sector deal for any foreign company prepared to pay the price. Indeed, the institutions much prefer foreign bidders since they offer cash and there is no downside for shares in another British company.

The post-Rowntree rush for brands has already put several names in the frame. BZW's Robert Brand prefers the neglected United Biscuits, selling at a more modest 12 times earnings. UB's Sir Hector Laing signalled the need for greater size in his abortive merger with Imperial. But any aggressor would face a ferocious fight so long as Sir Hector remains at the helm. But the City would much prefer companies such as UB to be taken over than to do any bidding themselves.

Expansion plans by video chain

By Martin Waller

Videoshuttle, a private chain of video rental shops, has arranged a £500,000 cash injection by Alan Patricio Associates, the venture capital outfit, with another £1.5 million promised.

It is also embarking on an expansion programme with the help of one of Mrs Jennifer d'Abo's former right-hand men at Ryman, the stationery chain.

Mr Alexander Neel, the company's founder, is drawing on the services of Mr Charles Lumley-Ellis, who was in charge of Ryman's property development and acquisition programme until it was taken over by Mr Terry Maher's Pentos last year.

He has been seconded to Videoshuttle by Mrs d'Abo's investment company for a year to build up the chain, which is expected to grow from five outlets - the latest opened yesterday - to about 40 within three years.

Mr Neel, an entrepreneur whose interests include a number of restaurants, met Mrs d'Abo through his sister, Mrs Janet Cohen, who is a director of Charterhouse, the merchant bank, and a friend of the former Ryman chairman.

Dixons held back at £103m

By Alexandra Jackson



Slaying calm: Stanley Kalms (Photograph: James Morgan)

Dixons, Britain's leading electrical retailer, is still suffering from the poor market conditions which held back pre-tax profits in the year to end April at £103.1 million against £102.6 million in 1986-87.

The figures masked a 28 per cent fall in British retailing profits to £58.8 million as Site, a recent US acquisition, made a maiden contribution of £16.8 million.

Mr Stanley Kalms, the chairman, said: "The first eight weeks of this year have been disappointing although there has been a slight pick-up since then."

"What happened last year was unique, but we have done what we can internally to improve the situation."

Lack of new products led to poor demand during the year, particularly during the Christmas season. This eroded group profit margins which fell from 9.2 per cent to 6.1 per cent and led to overstocking.

The group has now integrated the management structure of its Dixons and Currys stores in a move to reduce costs.

Group sales advanced from £1.1 billion to £1.7 billion. The dividend for the year was 8 pence higher at 4.3p.

A cautious Mr Kalms said it was early days to predict the outcome for the current year.

Times, page 26

Brierley in £10m selloffs

New Zealand's Brierley Investments Ltd, run by Sir Ron Brierley, said it is selling its 60.5 per cent stake in Thebes Investments and a 62.5 per cent holding in Echos Group.

BIL is selling the stakes to interests associated with Mr RT Martin, and will raise just over £10 million from the disposals.

BIL said it has sold its 17.09 million shares in Thebes for £5.43 million. It has also conditionally sold 1.3 million Echos shares for £4.68 million.

Geest acquires flowers group

Geest, the food distributor, has bought W Newnes & Co, a Birmingham wholesaler of flowers and plants, for an undisclosed sum.

Newnes had a turnover of £4.4 million and profits before tax and partnership drawings of £246,000 in the year to February 23. Mr Walter Newnes, the company's founder, is retiring.

Dencora buys £4.6m offices

Dencora, the East Anglian property developer and investor, has paid £4.63 million for a modern 114,000 sq ft office block in Northampton, which is let to the Northamptonshire County Council at a rent of £378,000 a year.

The purchase forms part of the group's policy of increasing its provincial office investments.

Guinness may face 'vast' payout

Guinness gave a warning yesterday that a "who pays what" dilemma was looming over the award of compensation - estimated as high as £100 million - which could be made to former Distillers shareholders who lost out in the £2.7 billion takeover battle for the Scottish drinks group.

Mr David Oliver QC, for Guinness, said in the Court of Appeal that the inadequacy of the City Takeover Panel's inquiry into the affair meant that, at the moment, there was no way of deciding whether the entire liability could justifiably be placed at the door of Guinness, which won control of Distillers, or whether others such as Cazenove, the stockbroker, Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, or Bank Leu, the Swiss bank, should share it.

Mr Oliver was opening a renewed Guinness attack on the Panel's ruling last September that the brewing company had infringed the City code by becoming involved in a £76 million secret deal in Distillers shares at a critical stage of the takeover battle in April, 1986.

He asked Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lords Justices Lloyd and Woolf, to overrule a High Court decision that there was no procedural impropriety in the Panel's decision-making process.

Guinness claims the Panel acted unfairly and unlawfully in failing to adjourn its inquiry until after a Department of Trade and Industry investigation, which was able to unearth more of the facts, had taken place.

The Panel ruled there was no doubt on the evidence that a Lucerne-based company, Pipetec, bought 10.6 million Distillers shares for nearly £76 million while acting "in concert" with Guinness.

Mr Oliver said there was evidence, taken at face value, which could have led the Panel to that conclusion. But he questioned the "wisdom, safety and fairness" of using it against Guinness when key witnesses had not been available to give evidence. For example, the Panel did not take sufficient steps to ensure that witnesses from Bank Leu gave evidence, even though the bank had an office in London.

Mr Oliver accused the Panel of adopting unsafe procedures. He said one con-

sequence of the Panel ruling was that Guinness might be required to pay out to former Distillers shareholders "absolutely vast" sums of money - estimated as high as £200 million, but put by Guinness at £100 million or possibly substantially less.

Guinness also faced "litigation on an enormous scale" with the Argyle Group, its main rival in the battle for Distillers. Mr Oliver said evidence from the Panel inquiry "leaves one absolutely clueless" as to who precisely was responsible for the alleged concert party.

At the moment there was no way of deciding whether the entirety of liability could justifiably be placed at Guinness's door. The hearing continues.

Lewis to spread his wings

Bid activity on the London Stock Exchange should be in for another fillip in September when Reginald Lewis, the ambitious American lawyer-turned-entrepreneur, moves from New York to Paris, to concentrate on expanding the international arm of his empire. Lewis, aged 45, who flew into London on Concorde on Tuesday night - and leaves for the Continent later today - tells me he is here "to get a feel for the UK marketplace, with an eye to future acquisitions". These could be, he says, be "very significant" perhaps in the region of hundreds of millions of pounds. He is especially interested in the food sector and, to a lesser degree, financial services. "We like to identify managements that are successful and support them. We don't necessarily see ourselves as operators, but as a very active investor, with representation on the board. Money is clearly not a problem. In July last year he was behind the acquisition of Beatrice International, one of the world's biggest food companies, for almost \$1 billion (£590 million). And he is now in talks to sell off various subsidiaries, including Cadbury & Bowser - in which both Cadbury and United Biscuits have expressed an interest - and Beatrice Poultry, the fourth-largest poultry firm in Britain. "We are considering a management buyout of the poultry business," he tells me, "but with us keeping a very significant interest."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Loss for Hoare Govett

The exodus from the stockbroker Hoare Govett continues apace. Peter Deighton, one of the firm's stalwarts, has, I hear, resigned. Deighton, aged 45, and a director of research in charge of engineering stocks - he was ranked second in that

sector in the latest Institutional Investor survey - had been at Hoare Govett for 19 years. But, as of next month, he will be switching to Morgan Grenfell Securities, again as a director of research, specializing in engineering.

Hon board

The appointment of the Hon Kevin Pakenham, aged 40, and son of the Earl of Longford, as chief executive of John Govett, the fund management house, has, I hear, dislodged the Hon Dwight Makins, aged 37, the second son of Baron Sheffield, from the position. Might on assume, I wonder, that Arthur Truget, the American chairman and chief executive of

Berkeley Govett, John Govett's parent company, is, in common with so many of his fellow countrymen, impressed by titles?

Tree for two

The suggestion that Premier Consolidated should call its first oil discovery Acom was made by the German wife of the company's ebullient chairman, Roland Shaw. "Aha," Shaw said. "You must be referring to our old English proverb: 'From tiny acorns do mighty oak trees grow'." "No," his wife, Felicitas, retorted, "it is in fact an old German proverb: 'Even a blind pig finds an acorn every now and again'."

Harrods used to make the proud boast that it could provide anything from an elephant to a pin. But it had to send one American away empty-handed the other day. After scrambling through the drawers of sacks on offer in Harrods' sale, he was overheard to ask an assistant: "Don't you sell any Marks and Spencer socks here?"

Carol Leonard

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You can use it to unlock the capital in your own home for any purpose you wish - perhaps to provide private education for your children, a second home, new investment or business opportunities or to repay outstanding debts.

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No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Anglo Ltd	Building Roads	1.15
2	Bank of India	Financial	1.15
3	Transoceanic	Industrial S-Z	1.15
4	Bradford	Property	1.15
5	Unigate (sa)	Food	1.15
6	BICC (sa)	Electrical	1.15
7	P & O Ltd	Shipping	1.15
8	Harland & Wolff	Electrical	1.15
9	Canning (W)	Chemicals	1.15
10	NMVT Comp	Electrical	1.15
11	BET Ord (sa)	Industrial A-D	1.15
12	Len	Motor/Aircraft	1.15
13	Enrothern	Electrical	1.15
14	Stanley Leisure	Leisure	1.15
15	Greenall Whitley	Breweries	1.15
16	Bowdler	Electrical	1.15
17	Kerrison (A)	Industrial E-K	1.15
18	Jordan (Thomas)	Industrial E-K	1.15
19	Woodhouse (sa)	Drugs/Stores	1.15
20	Star Comp	Industrial S-Z	1.15
21	Barton Transp	Industrial A-D	1.15
22	Barton (sa)	Drugs/Stores	1.15
23	Be Aerospace (sa)	Motor/Aircraft	1.15
24	Lloyds (sa)	Bank/Discount	1.15
25	Whitbread Inv	Breweries	1.15
26	Gestecor	Industrial E-K	1.15
27	Laur Pro	Property	1.15
28	Cray Elec	Electrical	1.15
29	Parsons (sa)	Industrial L-R	1.15
30	Boots (sa)	Industrial A-D	1.15
31	THV	Industrial S-Z	1.15
32	Diomed Gap (sa)	Drugs/Stores	1.15
33	OKS Simpson (A)	Drugs/Stores	1.15
34	Barclays (sa)	Bank/Discount	1.15
35	Tomkins	Industrial S-Z	1.15
36	Gr Portland	Property	1.15
37	Nika Foods (sa)	Food	1.15
38	Sot & New (sa)	Food	1.15
39	Applied	Motor/Aircraft	1.15
40	Miler (Stanley)	Building Roads	1.15
41	BM Co	Industrial A-D	1.15

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low	Share	Price	Change	%	PE
1	Anglo Ltd	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
2	Bank of India	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
3	Transoceanic	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
4	Bradford	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
5	Unigate (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
6	BICC (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
7	P & O Ltd	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
8	Harland & Wolff	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
9	Canning (W)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
10	NMVT Comp	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
11	BET Ord (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
12	Len	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
13	Enrothern	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
14	Stanley Leisure	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
15	Greenall Whitley	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
16	Bowdler	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
17	Kerrison (A)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
18	Jordan (Thomas)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
19	Woodhouse (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
20	Star Comp	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
21	Barton Transp	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
22	Barton (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
23	Be Aerospace (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
24	Lloyds (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
25	Whitbread Inv	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
26	Gestecor	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
27	Laur Pro	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
28	Cray Elec	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
29	Parsons (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
30	Boots (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
31	THV	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
32	Diomed Gap (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
33	OKS Simpson (A)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
34	Barclays (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
35	Tomkins	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
36	Gr Portland	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
37	Nika Foods (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
38	Sot & New (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
39	Applied	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
40	Miler (Stanley)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
41	BM Co	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High Low	Share	Price	Change	%	PE
1	Anglo Ltd	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
2	Bank of India	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
3	Transoceanic	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
4	Bradford	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
5	Unigate (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
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13	Enrothern	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
14	Stanley Leisure	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
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17	Kerrison (A)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
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23	Be Aerospace (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
24	Lloyds (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
25	Whitbread Inv	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
26	Gestecor	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
27	Laur Pro	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
28	Cray Elec	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
29	Parsons (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
30	Boots (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
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38	Sot & New (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
39	Applied	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
40	Miler (Stanley)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
41	BM Co	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High Low	Share	Price	Change	%	PE
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2	Bank of India	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
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14	Stanley Leisure	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
15	Greenall Whitley	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
16	Bowdler	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
17	Kerrison (A)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
18	Jordan (Thomas)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
19	Woodhouse (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
20	Star Comp	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
21	Barton Transp	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
22	Barton (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
23	Be Aerospace (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
24	Lloyds (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
25	Whitbread Inv	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
26	Gestecor	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
27	Laur Pro	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
28	Cray Elec	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
29	Parsons (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
30	Boots (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
31	THV	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
32	Diomed Gap (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
33	OKS Simpson (A)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
34	Barclays (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
35	Tomkins	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
36	Gr Portland	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
37	Nika Foods (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
38	Sot & New (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
39	Applied	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
40	Miler (Stanley)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
41	BM Co	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7

UNDATED

High Low	Share	Price	Change	%	PE
1	Anglo Ltd	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
2	Bank of India	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
3	Transoceanic	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
4	Bradford	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
5	Unigate (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
6	BICC (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
7	P & O Ltd	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
8	Harland & Wolff	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
9	Canning (W)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
10	NMVT Comp	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
11	BET Ord (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
12	Len	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
13	Enrothern	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
14	Stanley Leisure	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
15	Greenall Whitley	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
16	Bowdler	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
17	Kerrison (A)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
18	Jordan (Thomas)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
19	Woodhouse (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
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37	Nika Foods (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
38	Sot & New (sa)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
39	Applied	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
40	Miler (Stanley)	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7
41	BM Co	1.15	0.01	0.9	15.7

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP					
		Price	Change	%	P/E
High	Low				
Anglo 140	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Anglo Banking	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of India	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of London	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of Montreal	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of New York	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of Paris	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of Spain	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of Sweden	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of Switzerland	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of the Netherlands	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of the United Kingdom	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of the United States	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of the West	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of the World	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of the East	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of the South	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of the North	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of the Middle	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
Bank of the West Indies	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3
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Bank of the South Indies	137	137	0.0	0.0	10.3

Today the Prince of Wales opens the new headquarters of an organization that helps to develop third-world economies

The aid target is set at £180m a year

The Commonwealth Development Corporation, which has long been relatively inconspicuous at its cramped headquarters in Mayfair, central London, this year takes on a higher profile. It is celebrating its 40th anniversary by moving into a grand, specially designed building in Bessborough Gardens, just north of Vauxhall Bridge, and this headquarters is to be formally opened today by the Prince of Wales.

The move is a sign of confidence by an organization which has not always had a smooth ride in the course of the last four decades, but has had a successful record overall, and has had a marked impact on countries around the world, from Malawi to Papua New Guinea and Jamaica.

Essentially a development bank, it has the function of helping third-world economies. Many of them have profited from its involvement.

The CDC's history goes back to the difficult days of the postwar period. Since then it has had to broaden its role in order to survive. But the guiding principles on which it now operates, first set out in the late 1940s and modified in the 1950s, are now more than ever felt to be vindicated in a world in which the collectivist approach to development is increasingly discredited, and the private sector is looked on more favourably.

The CDC is far from being the biggest operator in the field of third-world development, but it is well-respected and, crucially, it claims proudly to have made a profit on its operations every year since 1955.

It is not a grant-giving institution: it works on the

principle that by investing in projects in a particular country, or making loans, it is doing two things: helping that country's economy and, it hopes, making a profit for itself that can then be put to use in further operations in other needy areas.

It receives funds each year from the aid budget of the Overseas Development Administration—£50 million in the current financial year. But these are only loans and, though the interest rate is set low, they have to be repaid. The difference between the rate at which it borrows its money and the return which it achieves on it is what enables the CDC to be profitable.

Its worldwide presence, made up of loans, investments

The CDC is moving to a new building on its 40th birthday.

Peter Strafford describes an institution that has made its mark across the world and is full of confidence

and commitments for the future, is now more than £1 billion. It is making new commitments each year of more than £100 million, though there has recently tended to be a gap between the making of a commitment and the actual disbursement of funds.

In his report on 1987 Lord Kindersley, the chairman, attributed this largely to the difficulty many governments were having in finding the local currency to honour their part in each financial plan. "This, in turn," he said, "reflects the problems they are

having in balancing their internal and external budgets."

These days the CDC has to look for viable projects in which to involve itself. There is a degree of competition with other potential investors, though also cooperation with comparable development banks, mainly in Europe, in making joint investments.

But the corporation is keen to expand its operations, and Lord Kindersley outlined its main objectives: to expand new commitments to £180 million a year; to increase the percentage going to the poorest countries from 50 per cent to 60 per cent; to reduce commitments to agricultural development from 50 per cent to 40 per cent; and to ensure that not less than two-thirds are in Commonwealth countries, plus Pakistan.

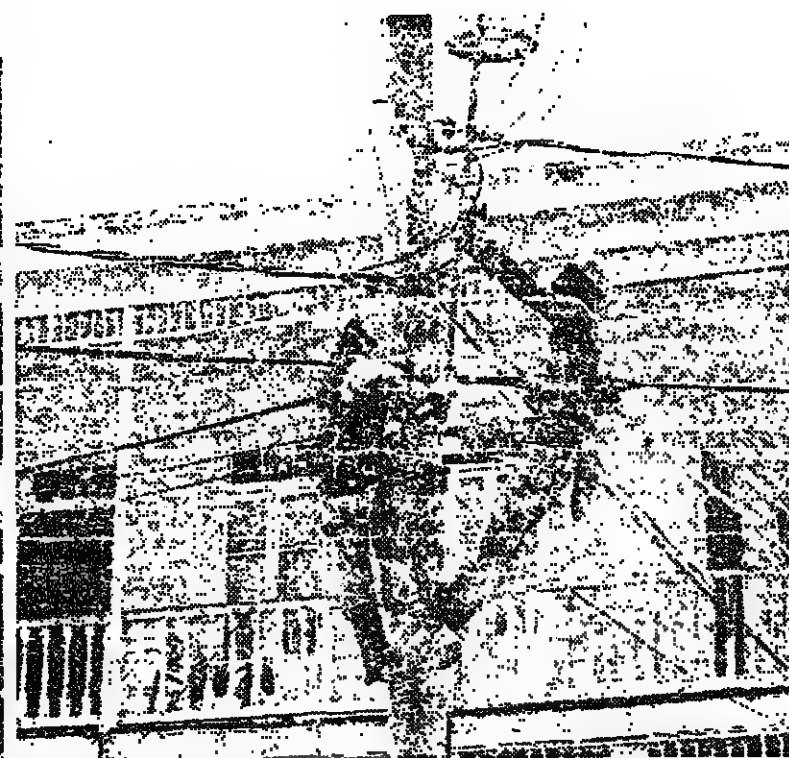
The CDC believes that it has distinctive features of its own to offer. John Eccles, the general manager, makes the point that making an equity investment, as CDC often does, involves a greater risk than just making a loan; and that unlike the European Investment Bank, for instance, the CDC is ready to assume the risk of investment without asking for a guarantee from the government concerned.

A further important point is that not only has it the ability to provide technical expertise, but it often takes over the complete management of a project itself.

Given the source of its funds, and the need to account to the government for them, the corporation has to act in broad accordance with British foreign policy. As Mr Eccles puts it, "We are here to promote the British public interest". But within that guideline it has a considerable degree of autonomy.



Third-world development: a Tanzanian farm labourer detassles seed maize; telephone technicians expand communications in Belize



Helping hand circles the globe

When it was first set up in 1948 the CDC was the Colonial Development Corporation. Its brief was to promote the development of colonial territories — which by that time no longer included India and Pakistan — and in a way which was not an undue burden on the exchequer, writes Peter Strafford.

Those were the days of acute shortage of foreign exchange, and the Overseas Food Corporation was set up at the same time to encourage food production in the sterling area. The OFC was later wound up after the failure of the groundnuts scheme in what was then Tanganyika. The CDC also made some ill-judged investments.

But in 1950 Lord Reith, late of the



Costa Rica: A farmer growing macadamia nuts

BBC, became chairman of the CDC, and was responsible over the next few years for a far-reaching reorganization of its operations, at home and abroad.

In 1963, after a battle in Whitehall, the CDC, instead of going into extinction like the Colonial Office, became the Commonwealth Development Corporation, with the right to operate in independent countries. In 1969 its scope was further enlarged, when it was given the right to invest in developing countries outside the Commonwealth, subject to ministerial approval.

Today it is active in 50 territories and countries, most of them in the Commonwealth but including a number outside, among them Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand in Asia, Liberia, the Ivory Coast and Cameroon in Africa, and Costa Rica, Honduras and Ecuador in Latin America. The latest addition is Mozambique.

The greatest share of its commitments — £460 million, or nearly 50 per cent of the total — is in Africa. This is followed by Asia with £238 million, the Pacific Islands £107 million, Latin America £79 million, and the Caribbean £73 million.

Traditionally, about 50 per cent of the CDC's activities have been in agriculture, or "renewable natural resources". But the planned reduction of this share to 40 per cent reflects the

greater emphasis being placed on industrial projects as these begin to play a greater part in the economies of the developing countries.

From its earliest days, the corporation has been involved in utilities — electricity in a number of Caribbean islands, for instance, and water services and telecommunications. It has also had a large hand in the setting up and functioning of mortgage finance companies: in the 1960s, civil servants of the newly independent countries often had help in buying their houses from CDC-financed operations.

Another area of activity has been local development banks in third-world countries, which have "on-lent" funds that originally came from the CDC. This, too, is a continuing process: in India, for instance, which has only recently become part of the corporation's field of activities, two new commitments are to the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India and the Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India.

There have been failures as well as successes. The CDC got its fingers burnt in Nigeria, where it did not receive the backing it had hoped for from the federal government for a sugar project; and it subsequently closed its regional office there when a requirement was introduced that it should come under Nigerian control.

More recently there has been what Lord Kindersley describes as "a disturbing rise in arrears of principal and interest".

But the difficulties have been outweighed by the successful ventures, and John Eccles, the general manager, describes the CDC as the "jewel in the British aid crown". One example of a success story is Swaziland, where the CDC became active in the early 1950s, after it had been decided that it and the other British protectorates were not to be absorbed into South Africa.

The CDC built up the sugar industry, which it still manages, and helped to set up a forestry project in the Western Highlands, combined with a mill which it ran with Courtauld's.

Another successful operation was in Sabah, now part of Malaysia, where the CDC took over a hemp estate, Borneo Abaca. Now known as BAL Plantations, it is still wholly owned and managed by CDC, and has been turned into a successful multi-crop operation, pioneering new methods of reproduction through cloning.

For the future the CDC draws confidence from the fact that in Africa, in particular, there is a move away from the collectivist approach which was generally seen as the way forward in the period after independence. This must favour institutions like the CDC, interested in backing the private sector.



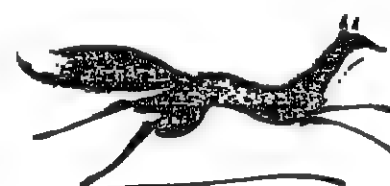
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Building a new future in wood

Despite two military coups, the declaration of a republic and a spiralling downturn in the rest of the economy, one of the Commonwealth Development Corporation's more ambitious projects is on budget and set to break even next year.

Tropik Wood Industries could not have had a more uncertain start. On May 14, 1987, just one day before the official opening of the company's 50-million Fijian dollar (about £20 million) woodchip and timber mill, Sitiveni Rabuka, the army strongman, marched into parliament and took over what had been the most stable country in the South Pacific.

Though other industry was badly hurt by the ensuing political and social unrest, Tropik was able to remain true to its aim of giving Fiji a lucrative export alternative to its century-old sugar industry. Symbolically, Tropik's sawmill, near the town of Drasa, stands in the middle of a vast plain of gently swaying sugarcane fields on the western side of the main island of Viti Levu.

Thirty years ago, when the CDC first came to Fiji, the hillsides surrounding this lushness were barren; their poor soils able to sustain only the hardiest of native scrub.

Today, this once desolate horizon has been painted green with *pinus caribaea*, a fast-growing Central American softwood. These trees are now the feedstock for Tropik, which expects to process 220,000 cubic metres of logs into 40,000 cu. m. of high-quality timber and 132,000 cu. m. of woodchip this year.

With a projected 1988 turnover of 15 million Fijian dollars, the Drasa mill has more than doubled the country's wood product output, with exports to Japan, Australia and New Zealand, plus growing sales to the local building industry.

At CDC's office in the capital, Suva, Charles Seller, the Pacific Islands repre-

From Geoffrey Spencer
in Suva

sentative, is also responsible for projects in the neighbouring island states of Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

But he sees Tropik as an example of almost copybook development work, where detailed planning and management based on strict economic criteria have resulted in a strong new industry resistant to outside problems.

Tropik is 51 per cent owned by the Fiji government. Its Fiji Fine Commission financed the controlling interest by means of a £4.16 million loan from the CDC and similar help from the European Investment Bank.

A good development project is one that can evolve in its own time and as it learns to cope, takes on more

In return, each lending institution has a 10 per cent shareholding, while the managing agent, BP South West Pacific, holds 29 per cent.

Though it is regarded internationally as a medium-sized mill, the Drasa operation is nevertheless advanced technologically with lasers and computers.

"Just because a product is made in the Third World, that doesn't mean it has to be made in a third-world way," says Allan Todd, the Tropik company secretary.

Since it is faced with relatively high labour costs (Fijian wages are around 11 times higher than those of Indonesia), the accent has been on efficiency through innovation and conservation. For example, with many trees twisted by year after year of tropical hurricanes, Drasa is about to install revolutionary machinery that can strip bent logs and saw them into straight planks.

With what cannot be sawn and chipped for export, the only part of the tree not exported is bark. But even this is used as fuel for a steam turbine generator which produces 3.3 megawatts — more than the plant currently needs — at virtually no cost.

"Our pine has the potential to put timber up fairly close to sugar as the generator of export income by the turn of the century," says Josevata Kamikamica, a former chairman of Tropik and now Finance Minister.

Meanwhile, there is talk of expansion. Wooden fence posts are already being made, and plans for box manufacture have been drafted along with more complicated, and therefore more profitable, assembly work.

"The potential for added value is tremendous," says Simon Hill, a CDC agriculture executive. "A good development project is one that can evolve in its own time. As it learns to cope, it can take on more."

But at times coping has been difficult. About 4,000 hectares of forest were destroyed by arson and some mill machinery sabotaged at the height of Fiji's troubles last year. In addition, some exports were blocked for several weeks by Australian and New Zealand trade unions protesting at the military takeover.

If set against western standards, Tropik's progress may seem rather ordinary. But compared with the CDC's other ventures in the neighbouring Melanesian nations of Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, it is almost space-age.

With the exception of a palm oil press in the Solomons, there is no secondary industry. Instead, commodities such as coffee and cocoa are sent abroad largely unprocessed.

But the rewards are far from negligible. This is especially so for the 900 employed in the Solomons and the 522 in Vanuatu on CDC-managed plantations.



The mark of achievement: Papua New Guinea's oil palm nursery at Higaturn Oil Palms Pty Ltd, top, and above, experimental wheat plots at the Tanganyika Watlie Company in Tanzania

Tightrope road in Malaysia

From M. G. G. Pillai
in Kuala Lumpur

The Commonwealth Development Corporation, through its transformation from a development agency for the British colonies to one for the Third World, has been in Malaysia almost since it was founded in 1946. Its office in Kuala Lumpur is also in charge of projects in Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, but its main projects are in Malaysia, a member of the Commonwealth.

The CDC functions as a development bank and a development agency, with the profits of one subsidising the other. But, as Richard Beacham, the regional controller, pointed out in an interview, many of its development projects, notably RAL Plantations in Sabah, have become profitable.

Over the years its emphasis on projects has changed, and its involvement more selective. "At one time, the governments and private companies had to come to us because we were among one or two in the field," he said, "but now we are one of many".

The CDC has committed about £215 million to projects in the five countries looked after from Kuala Lumpur, with the main emphasis on Indonesia and Malaysia. It provides both technical services and direct management in all fields.

"We have to walk a tightrope of undertaking high-value development projects that other companies may not be interested in and pay our own way," Mr Beacham said. The CDC invests in a number of projects, divesting its shares as they take off.

It was involved in the setting up of a Federal Land Development Authority, the ambitious scheme that is one of the world's largest, and in a number of other projects that remain the pride of the Malaysian government. These include the Malaysian Industrial Development Finance, in which CDC retains a small stake, and the Malaysia Borneo Building Society, which was floated on the stock market more than a decade ago.

Because of its long-term approach to development, some of its riskier

ventures have paid off. It went into cocoa in Malaysia before it became a glamour crop, and its research facilities at RAL Plantations, a once Japanese-owned hemp estate which it took over after the Second World War, are rated the best in Malaysia.

On the other hand an attempt to rear beef cattle on a commercial ranch, in partnership with a state government in Malaysia, has not quite taken off because India is now supplying the meat cheaper than it can be produced locally. So its prospects do appear bleak. But then so did those of cocoa before it took off, Mr Beacham said.

At present it is looking into the possibility of commercial cultivation of rattan in Sarawak. Almost every country in Southeast Asia has, or otherwise restricts, the export of rattan, but there is little local interest in developing the crop. But Mr Beacham is not concerned by all this. He takes the view that once the commercial viability is evident, others will follow.

The CDC's projects in the other countries follow the approach it adopts in Malaysia, although the emphasis varies from country to country. In Malaysia it is still mainly on commodities, while in Indonesia it is on industry, though there is a mixture of projects that gives it a rounded presence in each country.

"We are known for our interest in any venture that, with good management, expertise and advice, can be made profitable. We are prepared to take a long-term view of that. Even private companies are beginning to see the advantage of this approach, and we are often asked for help", Mr Beacham said.

The CDC in Malaysia and southeast Asia is not a glamour agency, but it does play an essential role of harnessing available resources in the best way possible.

Many people in Kuala Lumpur are unaware where the CDC has its offices. It is on the floor above that of Aeroflot, the Soviet airline. But its reputation within the government and private sector is what gives CDC the clout it has both in Malaysia and the other countries in the region.

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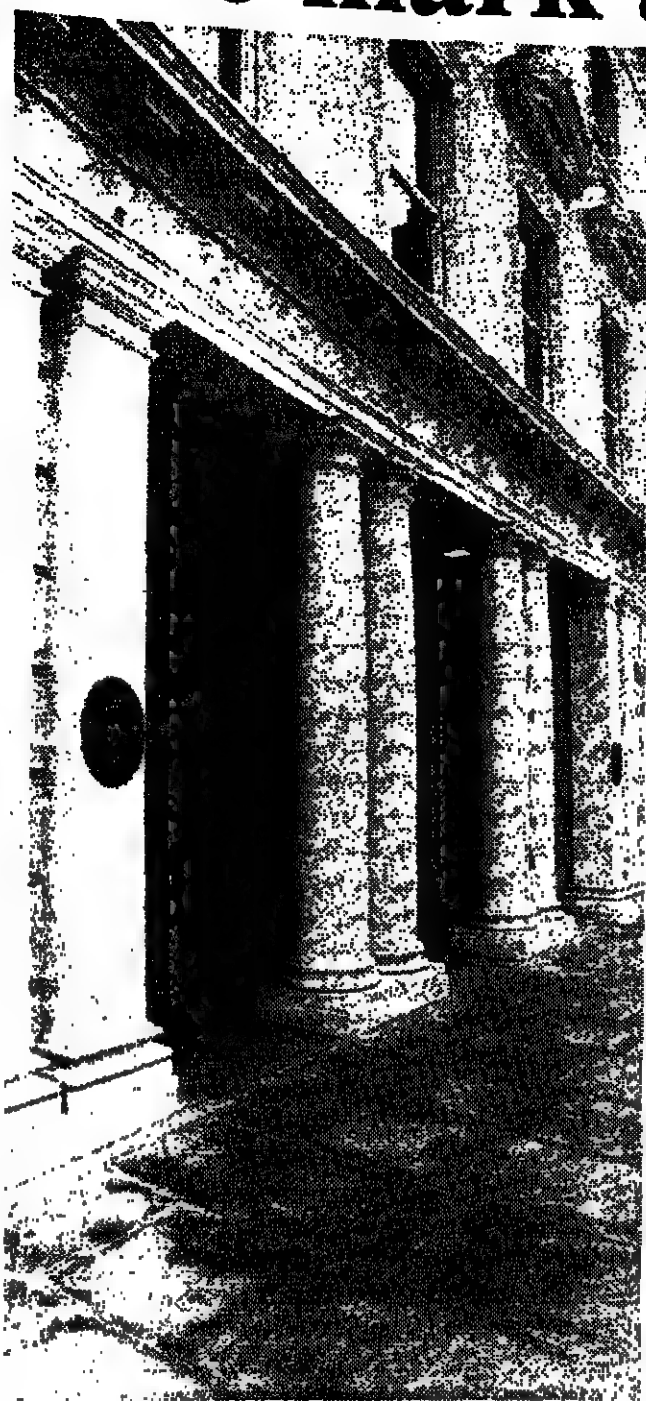
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to mark a new era

Nine million pounds has been spent by the CDC on its HQ

It is perhaps symbolic that the CDC's new headquarters, a stylish neo-Georgian building in Bessborough Gardens, in central London, stands in an area which was in the past a good deal less salubrious than it is now, and has more than once been reclaimed by developers, writes Peter Stafford.

The site is part of the Millbank estate in Pimlico, on the north bank of the Thames, which now belongs to the Crown Estate and is a good example of the changing character of London neighbourhoods. For centuries the whole area was little more than an expanse of fens and marshes. It was a good place for duck and snipe, and for growing vegetables, but apart from that it attracted little attention until 1610, when the Spring Gardens were opened across the river at Vauxhall. The crowds wanting to go there took the ferry from Millbank.

In 1799 it was decided that the area would make a good site for a prison, and the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, predecessors of the Crown Estate Commissioners, bought 53 acres from the Marquess of Salisbury for £12,000. The Millbank Penitentiary was built on about one-third of the site, and the rest of it, still needing proper drainage, was given over to market gardening.

In 1816 the present Vauxhall Bridge was built. Later in the century the prison was demolished, to be replaced by the Millbank barracks and the Tate Gallery.

The possibility of using the rest of the Millbank site for urban development became a real one between 1826 and 1828, when

Cubitt presents his Millbank plan

earth from the excavations at St Katharine's Dock, near the Tower of London, was deposited there. This had the effect of raising the level of the ground, and in 1837 Thomas Cubitt, the London developer, was asked to submit a plan. Cubitt had already made his mark with his plans for the Bedford estate in Bloomsbury and Lord Grosvenor's Belgrave estate. He presented his plan for Millbank in 1838, revised it in 1845 and, having acquired a 99-year building lease from the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, laid out a residential estate which has marked the area ever since.

Over the years, however, it went downhill. Deterioration had already set in in 1928 when a high tide and heavy rainfall led to the flooding of many of the basements and the drowning of several tenants. During the Second World War a number of buildings were hit by bombs. Others had to be demolished because of decrepitude. In recent years, therefore, there has been an extensive rebuilding programme for the Millbank estate, and 1 Bessborough Gardens, the new home of the CDC, is one of the showpieces of it. Its neo-Georgian style is in keeping with Cubitt's own designs, and it faces other houses in a similar style across the gardens.

For the CDC, which has the building on a 35-year lease and has spent a total of £9 million on it, it will mean a change of operating style. Since 1951 the corporation has had its headquarters in Hill Street, Mayfair, but many of the offices were cramped, and others were in a separate building. Now, with open-plan offices, new furniture and carefully conceived décor, it is embarking on a new era.

The bulk of the CDC's financial commitment is in Africa, where projects are supported in 19 countries and a total of £460 million is committed currently. Since last year almost two-thirds of all new allocations have gone to this continent.

Though most of the investment still goes to the 15 Commonwealth member states, the CDC also has authority to operate in certain other African countries. The most recent addition is Mozambique, where it is hoped to begin by helping British companies in the agricultural sector.

Other investments are in Liberia, Sudan, the Ivory Coast and Cameroon.

Over the years there has been a deliberate attempt to diversify investment, with the result that CDC-financed projects now cover a wide range — from farming and ranching to communications and tourism. One of Africa's tiniest states, Swaziland, has no fewer than nine types of project supported by the CDC.

Due to the crucial shortage of foreign currency in many countries on the continent today, one of the corporation's aims is to encourage projects which earn significant foreign exchange. So large sums have been invested in export crop activities, especially those in which smallholders can play an important role such as tea, coffee and sugar-cane.

Kenya has benefited from almost three decades of CDC operations. Even before independence, it took a bold gamble by investing in a

and their industries (Tanzania, Zambia and Swaziland). In Malawi funds are going to new rubber plantations. With 24 African countries all seeking to expand, the CDC has its hands full deciding where future funding will do most good.

Some African countries, disillusioned with the poor performance of some of their state corporations — parastatals — have begun to dismantle them. Seeing itself as a kind of halfway house between public and private sectors, the CDC has been involving itself

increasingly in providing not only finance, but management expertise, to some countries for the rehabilitation of these institutions.

The corporation is now investigating what assistance it can give to Zimbabwe's expanding chemical industry. It is also exploring the possibilities for broadening Kenya's light-industrial base now that the import-substitution phase appears to have ended successfully and the government is putting more emphasis on export promotion.

How African
states can earn
foreign money

From Alastair Matheson in Nairobi

pioneer project to grow tea on a smallholder basis.

It began in 1960 on the well-watered highlands — the Nyambeni Hills north-east of Mount Kenya. It has since spread to both sides of the Rift Valley, where the Kenya Tea Development Authority now has a chain of tea factories in which CDC has some shares.

More than 150,000 growers derive a substantial income from tea, and their processed leaf forms a large part of tea exports, Kenya's second largest source of foreign exchange.

Similarly, CDC investment since 1969 has helped to rehabilitate hundreds of coffee-pulping factories and to build 55 new ones.

In the sugar-growing areas of western Kenya which Mrs Margaret Thatcher visited earlier this year, she was most impressed by the CDC-aided project at Mumias. In addition to a sugar factory with a rated capacity of 180,000 tonnes of sugar a year, the project gives employment to 30,000 "outgrowers" who supply much of the cane from within a 30-mile radius.

Though building costs have risen to more than 10 times what they were when this CDC-funded project started in 1973, the two, three and four bedroom terrace houses, sold on a mortgage basis to lower-income buyers through the CDC-funded Housing Finance Company of Kenya, still provide the best value for

Tourism, another important source of foreign exchange for Africa, is a sector in which CDC has been operating more recently with assistance to hotels and game lodges, not only in Kenya but also in Malawi, the Seychelles and the Gambia.

Though housing finance projects yield no foreign exchange and have relatively low returns, this is nevertheless a field in which the CDC has felt obliged to be active, seeing it as necessary to stability and progress.

Nairobi today has the largest private housing project anywhere in Africa, the complex at Buru Buru. This has grown on the city's eastern outskirts to become a community of 5,000 houses.

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money. Ian Lane, CDC's project manager at Buru Buru, is now busy with plans for yet another housing scheme, just a couple of miles from Buru Buru. The 7,000 houses planned at the new Kayole Estate will be built on a no-frills basis so they can be made available for purchase on mortgage to a lower-paid group than those living at Buru Buru.

"We'll give them a roof over their heads, plus services like water and electricity, but the owners can add the finishing touches when they can afford them". These "finishing touches" include fittings such as window pelmets, tiled floors and plaster for the interior walls.

When visiting Buru Buru while in Kenya last year, the Prince of Wales, then a member of the CDC board, called on Mr and Mrs Riach in their three-bedroom house in Tongogona Lane.

That royal visit had a dramatic effect on Buru Buru, for the accumulation of rubbish over the years had been removed by the city authorities at the last minute when the estate was being smartened up for the occasion.

However, despite the pleasant setting of bright-red Roman tiles and the yellow walls of the houses, most open spaces are again piled with rubbish. There seems to be no communal effort to deal with the piles of rubbish, but the residents of Buru Buru have in many cases clubbed together to deal with the important problem of security against thieves.

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Forty years of success and set to expand

The CDC is planning for the future from a sound base — 40 years of successful development in a world where the pace of change has been unprecedented. From its early days, through concentrating largely on Commonwealth countries, and now working in a number of other countries as well, CDC has adapted to change its role in the developing world.

Today the corporation is a major co-financier with partners who include local entrepreneurs, British business interests, governments, banks and other development agencies. The CDC has investments and commitments of £1 billion in some 300 projects worldwide.

The challenge that faces the CDC now is the need to keep a strong development focus in an increasingly complex environment.

The CDC, as always, remains committed to looking for projects

John Eccles, general manager of the CDC, looks to the future

which are financially and economically viable, financially sustainable and which offer good development value — creating increased opportunities for the country concerned.

What can the CDC offer to encourage other organizations to join us in the productive deployment of development finance? We will continue to provide more than money — more than sound appraisal and financial planning — to projects. The CDC often provides management and always a wide range of services including engineering, natural resources, marketing, legal and procurement.

Both for co-investors — including British business — and for the projects in which the CDC invests, we can provide a complete package or a selection of services to complement the provision of finance.

Many countries are finding it

difficult to achieve satisfactory rates of economic growth.

There has been a reduction in the involvement of commercial banks in the financing of projects and a greater percentage involvement in lending overall by official development finance institutions led by the World Bank and the IMF. The debt problems that have arisen have brought a period of much greater caution, both on the side of the lenders and on the side of the borrowers, and at the same time the role of governments has become questioned. Meanwhile we have seen an increasing and welcome emphasis on the private sector.

It is against this background that the CDC plans for the future. We have the backing of the British government. Our portfolio continues to grow, our cash flow is satisfactory and our funding position looks secure. For the future, a number of features stand out.

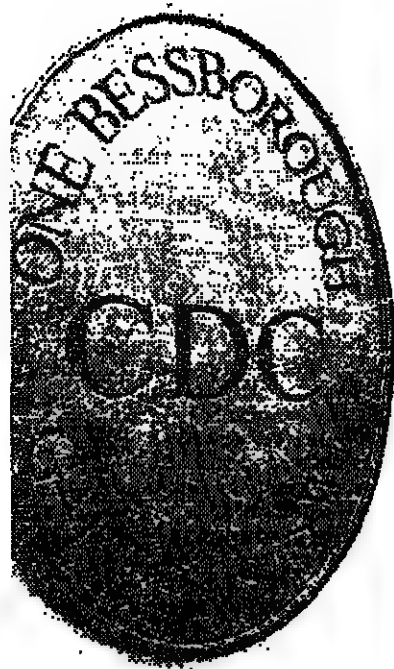
First, there is the geographic split of our portfolio between Africa, Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean and Latin America. The split is much the same as it has been historically. There is going to be one great difference, which will be the growing importance of India and Pakistan.

When we look at the sector split, the split between agriculture, industry, utilities, hotels, housing finance and development banks, we again find that the position is very much the same as it has been in the past.

Here we plan that our industrial investments should grow faster than investment in other sectors because we see opportunities in the industrial sector. We also plan exceptional growth in private sector investment and in equity investment.

CDC-managed projects account for about the same proportion of our portfolio as they have done for many years.

In 1987 we undertook four more managed projects. These managed projects are the core of the CDC's business and their contribution over the years has been immeasurable, not only to our commitment to develop-



John Eccles: We are ready with new ideas and new methods. We will be seeking to expand our commitment to new types of projects

ment, but also to our knowledge of how to operate in many countries and how to achieve sound economic and social development together with financial success.

We plan to increase the amount of new business overall. The 18 CDC offices overseas will be at the forefront of the search for more new business, supported by the operations and technical departments in London. We will be seeking to expand our technical ability and our commitment to new types of projects and new sectors.

We will be looking to familiar solutions — particularly electricity, water and telecommunications, and our commitment to agriculture and to the primary processing of agricultural products — but also to new solutions, through developing business in in-

dustrial and in smaller states; via equity and the private sector; by developing existing managed projects and in many other ways.

Today, after 40 successful years, the CDC is looking forward to continuing and expanding its development work. As our task becomes more complex so our approaches need to become more sophisticated and flexible. We are ready with new ideas and new methods, but always building on the experience of the past, and without sacrificing the long-term commitment which has always been associated with our name.

The new London office, with its neo-classical exterior and its modern, high-tech interior, sums up this blend of experience and innovation which is the CDC.

Fern that grew profit

High on the slopes of Poas, a smoking volcano in central Costa Rica, lies a narrow valley, hidden in cloud and gradually being covered with sheets of black plastic.

It is not a new work by Cristo, the artist given to bedecking landmarks in plastic sheeting. It is the work of the Commonwealth Development Corporation, and the valley is owned by Fernexport, one of a dozen Latin American enterprises, in both the public and private sectors, receiving help from the CDC.

Fernexport produces leather-leaf fern to be used in flower arrangements in western Europe. It is privately owned, but it fits in perfectly with the "agriculture of change" policy of President Oscar Arias, who is struggling to promote cash-crop production to help his country acquire vital foreign exchange.

Sean Magee, the Latin American representative of the CDC, said that Señor Arias's agricultural master plan was not considered when it was decided to lend Fernexport \$1.2 million to get started. "But if we find something that is economically viable and also fits in with the government's plans," Mr Magee explained, "it makes it all the better."

The owner of Fernexport is Sergio Estrada, a university-educated agronomist, who previously grew rice and raised milk cows, and is more than enthusiastic about the CDC. "It's a bank," he said. "But a bank that wants to help, not exploit."

In 1986, Señor Estrada was faced with a problem. He knew that there was an export market for leather-leaf ferns, but he needed financing in foreign exchange to import tractors, refrigeration equipment and 20 hectares of the special black, woven plastic sheeting under which ferns grow best.

Costa Rica's nationalized banks are slow and poor. "They keep you waiting for over a year, and then say 'No'," Señor Estrada complained. "Or they might say 'Yes, but we don't have the money'."

Costa Rica's private banks do not lend dollars and in any case charge up to 25 per cent interest.

Señor Estrada contacted the CDC and negotiated a 10-year loan at 10 per cent annual interest. In keeping with CDC policy he had to raise 40 per cent of the project financing on his own, and he did this by taking on two Costa Rican investors as partners.

Now Fernexport is thriving and is expected soon to be



At work in a Costa Rican fern garden: With CDC help, an export market is now being supplied

earning \$1.3 million in gross income. And 60 local peasants have year-round employment, unlike the two or three months per year that local coffee-picking provides.

President Arias is happy because 100 per cent of Fernexport's income is in much-needed dollars. Mr Magee is happy because Fernexport should easily be able to pay back its loan, and it stands as an example of just what the CDC strives to achieve in Latin America.

Mr Magee agrees that the CDC is like a bank, but he allows the comparison to go only so far. "We're more active than a bank," he said. He explains that the CDC

reaches beyond the Commonwealth in 1969. Mr Magee said it was chosen because of its political stability, small size, in which results can be readily seen, and its need for the relatively modest financing CDC could offer.

Now the CDC also funds projects in Belize, four in Honduras and two in Ecuador, as well as the six in Costa Rica.

The projects range from palm-oil scheme deep in the Amazon jungle of Ecuador to the replacement of deteriorating water mains in a low-income district of the Costa Rican capital, San José, and financing the purchase by the manager of the landmark Fort George Hotel in Belize. The hotel was built by the CDC in 1952 and, until its recent sale, was CDC-run.

Another factor that distinguishes the CDC from Latin American commercial banks is concern for the environment. Mr Magee said that environmental-impact studies are undertaken on all potential CDC investments.

Avoiding politics is also a basic principle of CDC policy, but a difficult one to uphold in politically volatile Latin America. Even selecting public or private sector projects to finance is a political statement.

Mr Magee said the CDC strives to strike a balance between the public and private sectors, but admitted the balance sways one way or the other depending on the politics of the resident of 10 Downing Street. At the moment, private-sector projects are looked on favourably.

By Tony Avirgan in San Jose, Costa Rica

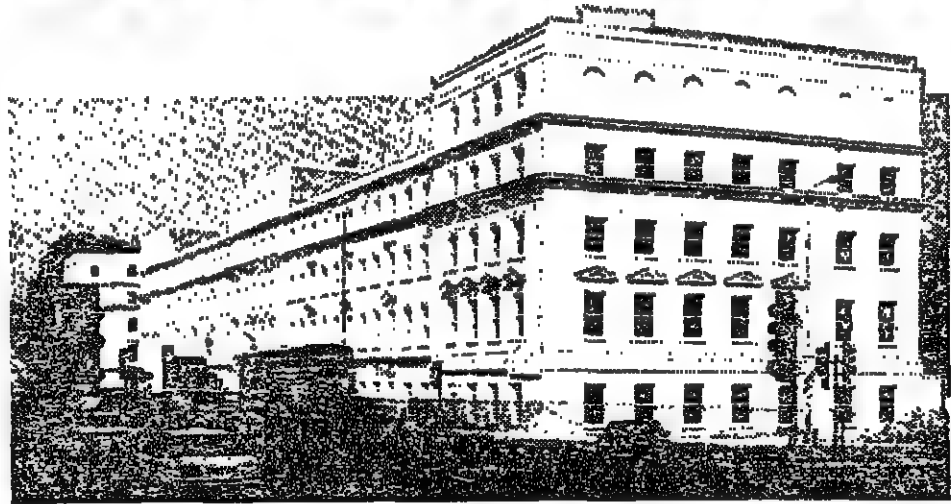
assumes a vigorous management role in the projects it funds, sometimes even providing the management team for the initial stages, and always keeping a close eye on progress.

On a recent morning, for instance, at Señor Estrada's request, a CDC London-based soil expert, who was touring the region, visited Fernexport.

He discovered suspected soil deficiencies that, if left uncorrected, could result in financial disaster for Fernexport. Soil samples were taken back to London for analysis.

Costa Rica was the first Latin American country in which the CDC began to operate when its aid programme was expanded to

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Ties that don't bind

An unusual aspect of CDC financing, appreciated by recipients accustomed to dealing with "died" American aid, is the absence of an obligation to buy British goods and services. At Fernexport, and the Italian tractor and a US-made refrigeration system, the only British products are an old Land Rover and a specialized tractor seat.

Sean Magee, the CDC's Latin American representative, said: "Our philosophy is to help the project rather than to help British exporters. Recipients of CDC financing are only requested to allow British exporters to engage in competitive bidding."

Correction
A picture caption in a Special Report on June 27 incorrectly said that some Holsten Pils is brewed only in West Germany.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

July 14, 1988

Roger Dawe, director-general of the Training Commission, the former Manpower Services Commission, talks to Edward Fennell about challenges in the 1990s

If you thought that 1992 was all you had to worry about, prepare for a big shock. The single European market may be a tremendous opportunity, but the huge drop in the number of young people and the rising demand for college leavers in the years 1993 to 1997 could be a serious threat to the competitiveness of British industry. It is vital that employers make appropriate plans now.

The 1990s may hold out glowing prospects but their most significant feature will be a great demographic downturn. A joint report published earlier this week by the National Economic Development Office and the Training Commission - *Young People and the Labour Market: A Challenge for the 1990s* - underlined just how serious the problem will be. From a total of more than 880,000 in 1985 the number of 18-year-olds has started to fall progressively. By 1990 it will have dropped to about 650,000.

These are not speculative projections. They are firm figures fixed at the end of the 1980s when young women of child-bearing age decided to postpone motherhood or at least have smaller families. On present form it will be 20 years or so before we get back to our present number of school and college leavers.

The result is that in the mid-

1990s this country will face a severe shortfall of new entrants to the workforce at all ages and all levels. In particular it may be difficult to satisfy the rising demand for people to fill high-skill jobs because from next year the number of graduates will start falling off. By 1998 the problem is likely to have reached crisis proportions.

For us this is a real challenge. The Training Commission has the task of helping to secure a skilled and adaptable workforce for the nation but the progressive decline in new recruits will pose a real threat to that goal.

Our immediate priority is to alert employers to exactly what will hit them. A recent survey conducted for the Training Commission showed that only 15 per cent of employers were aware of the problem. So we are now starting a huge education job to bring home to them just how serious the shortage of new recruits could become.

I hope that, once forewarned, employers will become forearmed. At the moment well qualified young people at the graduate and professional level are in enormous demand. Fields such as accountancy, science, teaching and engineering just cannot get enough of them. And that trend will continue. So it is vital that employers start to plan now in order to cope

Make maximum use of talent as the young workforce diminishes



with the tightening labour market for young people and higher skills. There are several things that individual employers can do to prepare for the mid-1990s.

FIRST, they can strengthen their own position in the recruitment market-place by improving their links with universities and polytechnics through closer collaboration and co-operation.

SECONDLY, they can try to make better use of the graduates and other employees they do recruit. The Constable and Handy Reports have shown that the training of our young managers is way behind those of our industrial rivals. Employers should do much more to give proper training to graduates to help them to reach their full potential.

AND THIRDLY, they must

look more closely at all their existing employees to see how the untapped talent that lies hidden there can be developed.

Developing the talents of the workforce was, of course, one of the perennial themes of the Manpower Services Commission and it will continue to be central to the role of the Training Commission. In any case, given the likely shortage of graduates in relation to rising skill requirements, many employers will be forced to look elsewhere for people to fill the traditional graduate slots.

This is something I am keen to encourage. Many members of the workforce are capable of taking on more responsibility if given the chance and the training. Older non-graduate workers must, therefore, be encouraged and helped to achieve higher qualifications. At

the same time employers should adopt a more "open" policy of initial recruitment.

Although the number of school and college leavers will decline in the 1990s the number of people aged between 25 and 35 will grow. It is important that we should open out opportunities to people in this age range who entered the labour market in much more difficult times.

I have in mind particularly women returners, many of whom will be graduates anyway, and those with "technician-level" qualifications who can step up to higher skill and management posts through extra training. Through greater openness and better use of the education system people with good practical experience can be enabled to reach higher standards. In encouraging employers to

take radical steps to develop their existing workforce I do not ignore the role that the universities, polytechnics and the Training Commission itself can play.

The Government is already committed to increasing the "participation rate" of young people in higher education so as to bring the UK more into line with the United States, Japan and West Germany. But over and beyond this the Training Commission is encouraging admissions tutors to throw a wider net when they are recruiting undergraduates.

We would like to see more value given to non-traditional qualifications and a widening of access to higher education. This does not involve diluting standards but it

does require a broader view of who might benefit from degree-level courses.

A good example of this is in engineering where the dangerous shortfall in the number of chartered and incorporated engineers led the National Advisory Body for Public Sector Higher Education to launch last autumn its HITECC conversion courses. These one-year courses, for which grants are available from the Training Commission, enable students who lack the normal admission requirements to gain entry on to degree and Higher National Diploma courses in engineering. So far they seem to be working very successfully.

On the same theme the Training Commission is now urging professional institutions to reduce rigidities and artificial barriers in their structures in order to permit individuals to rise as high as possible. The question I would ask all professional institutions is whether their rules enable individuals to develop their potential to the full at work.

So in preparing for the exigencies of the 1990s the Training Commission is adopting a consistent line. Turn the difficulties presented by the drop in the numbers into a positive incentive for change, it says. Instead of putting up excuses, start tearing down the barriers to progress.

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Ambitious graduates are sought for professional careers in sales with the UK's most successful computer resourcing consultancy. Initially, you will support our dynamic sales teams, while learning about our international computer services business. This training programme will prepare you for the challenge of becoming a top professional sales person in our expanding organisation.

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For more details on these exciting opportunities, please call Sue Cuff on 01-836 8411 (office hours) or send a full CV to her at Computer People London, FREEPOST, VI House, 68/69 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4BR.



GRADUATES ATTN TAX TRAINING

1988 Graduates sought by firms of Chartered Accountants for career roles training in personal/corporate tax, studying for the Institute of Taxation qualification (ATTI). Candidates should have a good academic record and outgoing personality. Vacancies exist in London and many provincial locations. Della Snape (01) 493 7786 or after 8.00 pm (01) 531 7796.

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GRADUATES Looking for a new job? CURRENT VACANCIES

For all graduates, fortnightly wages paid direct by first-class mail.

Write to: CSU, Dept INCVB, Crawford House, Precinct Centre, Manchester M13 9EP or telephone 061-273 4233



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And that's why we'd like to shed some light on the matter. Because the truth is that this is one of the most fascinating jobs in electronic engineering. The BBC has been in the business for more than 60 years, but we have maintained our lead as the forefront of new technologies and techniques. Currently, for example, we're placing increasing emphasis on the latest developments in digital sound reproduction, mixing and recording, and relying more and more on sophisticated computer-controlled equipment.

As an Engineer in our domestic radio service, you'll be responsible for the maintenance, modification and testing of the hi-tech behind Radio 1, 2, 3 & 4.

You'll need a degree in Electronic Engineering or Applied Science, a keen practical attitude, and a good knowledge of electronics and radio. You'll also need a mature and stable personality, and a willingness to work in a team. We offer a competitive salary, a pension scheme, and the opportunity to work in a stimulating and challenging environment.

For more information, please write to: Radio Engineering, BBC, 1 Wood Lane, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 7TJ.

We are an equal opportunities employer.



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A British service based company who are expanding internationally are looking for graduates to manage their future growth. With the service sector becoming an increasingly more important part of the British economy this is a real chance to enter a growing market.

This company will present the right candidates with strong challenges, further training to complement their education and, ultimately, international opportunities.

If you are a graduate, particularly with degrees in Business or Social Studies or The Biological Sciences, and want to work for a company with a household name and an enviable reputation for service, write with your full educational background and qualifications to:

BOX NO. M42

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The Regional Health Authority has adopted a No Smoking Policy. Ref: 8179 Closing date: 8 August 1988



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London, West End £9,500 + Study

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Graduate or similarly educated young person required to work within the reclamation industry. The position offers an exciting career within a major UK group creating new horizons through technology. Salary negotiable.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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To apply please send full career details to Paddy Walker, Coopers & Lybrand Associates Limited, at the address below:

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We have openings for ambitious, career minded individuals, aged 21+. Essentials are self-motivation, application to hard work and the ability to absorb new ideas rapidly in wide ranging fields, including taxation, insurance, mortgages and pensions.

To make the most of this gilt-edged opportunity with excellent promotion prospects contact:

Mark Fletcher
PHONE 01-437 8786
A MEMBER OF THE General Portfolio group

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If you are aged under 55, with integrity, dedication and self-assurance, you could have another equally successful career ahead of you.

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To launch your second career talk to:

Keith Agnew on 01-686 6111 or John Stafford on (0923) 229241 at Hill Samuel Investment Services, Surrey Division, NLA Tower, 12-16 Addiscombe Road, Croydon CR9 6BP.

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Our present District General Manager leaves in the Autumn to become Chief Executive of Devon County Council. We want an experienced general manager with effective leadership skills to replace him. We are open-minded about your background - whether from the public or private sector, from health or some other service industry. More important are energy, commitment, a capacity to grasp complex issues in an organisation of our size, and the skill to develop and lead the team of managers and health professionals.

This is a superb job in an ideal part of the country. The District occupies the coastal plain alongside the Solent, and beside the Sussex/Hampshire border, with good amenities in town and country, and quick travel to London and the Continent. A full profile of the Health Authority, further information about the job and an application form are available from the Chairman, Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Authority, District Offices, St. Mary's Hospital, Milton Road, Portsmouth, Hants PO3 6AD. Tel: (0706) 622331 ext 4630.

The closing date for applications is 8th August 1988.

CONFERENCE ORGANISER

Welfare Unit

This is a new appointment, and we are looking for someone whose first task it will be to improve and expand the BBC's pre-retirement training. In addition to organising and chairing 'in-house' Preparation for Retirement Conferences, work will include supervising three welfare assistants dealing with living accommodation, medical insurance and charity giving; maintaining and developing a network of voluntary visitors for retired staff and setting up and running a computerised record system for the Unit.

You should be a competent public speaker, and will need to be able to demonstrate self-reliance, the ability to make independent judgements, and organising skills. You should also have a sound knowledge of the social services and an empathy with the problems facing those approaching retirement age. Preference will be given to those with experience of voluntary work in the community and who have, or are willing to study for, a recognised social work qualification.

Starting salary in the range of £10,865 - £12,628, including London weighting. Benefits include five weeks' leave a year, contributory pension scheme and travel loans. Relocation expenses will be considered. The Welfare Unit is at present based in the Oxford Circus area of Central London, but will be moving to the new Corporate Headquarters at White City, West London, in mid 1990.

For further details and an application form contact (quote ref. 9746/T and enclose r.a.e.) BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, London W1A 1AA. Tel (01) 927 5799.

Completed application forms should be returned by 3rd August.

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Trevor James Accountancy
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London EC2N 3ES

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We are looking for men and women who are genuinely interested in either commencing or continuing a career in Advertising sales with a first class Publishing Company.

You will probably be between 22-35 with some sales experience, although that may not be necessary. Above all you must have drive, personality and absolute determination to succeed. Our commission structure is designed to create realistic earnings of between £22-£45K per annum.

If you are ambitious and have the confidence to present at the most senior level then call Chris Humphreys or Julian Wildman on 240 1515.

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Experienced consultants - aged 25-40

You are required to:-

1. Have previous experience in Cost Savings Consultancy.
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3. Have a high level of personal presentation.
4. Be able to work in a highly disciplined environment.
5. Be able to live away from home Monday - Friday. Preferable, though not essential - foreign languages.

If you meet the above requirements, please send a CV and recent photograph to Debbie Collier, Brookdowns Ltd, The Granary, 50 Barrow Rd, Worsley Village, Manchester, M13 4EP.

We also require trainees consultants aged 22 - 30

Line management experience essential. Graduates preferred willing to live away from home Monday - Friday.

If you meet the above requirements, please send a CV and recent photograph to Debbie Collier, Brookdowns Ltd, As above.

Graduates Chartered Accountancy Salaries to £10,000

We are currently recruiting for Trainee ACA positions with prestigious medium-sized firms of Chartered Accountants in London, as well as branch offices of the "Big 8" and established local practices throughout England.

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For vacancies in Midlands, Liverpool, Manchester or Yorkshire, contact David Phillips.
For London positions or recruitment details for Hampshire, Sussex, Surrey or Kent, contact Gail Robinson.

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Please write enclosing full CV to: G P Nicholls, H T Webb and Company Limited, 38/40 Sydenham Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 1EF

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Salary circa £17,500 with a non-contributory pension scheme. Written applications to:

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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You will need to have experience and knowledge of PC products and the market.

In return we can offer the opportunity of contributing to the decision making process of a £2 multi million Company in a creative environment where talent is recognised and rewarded.

If this challenging and exciting position interests you, please send a full C.V. or telephone immediately:

Stephen Watkins, Personnel Manager,
Amstrad Pic Brentwood House,
169 Kings Road, Brentwood,
Essex CM14 4EF.
TEL: 0277-228888



DECISION SUPPORT CONSULTANTS £18k - £20k + Car + Bonus

DPS has vacancies for people with experience in Decision Support Systems, Management and Financial Accounting or Marketing Information Systems. The work involves analysis, design, and implementation of systems for large companies where we are retained on a consultancy basis. Some working on client sites is normal. Applicants are likely to be 27-32, probably with a relevant qualification (e.g. Degree, ICMA, etc.), and with a definite interest in expanding their skills in the use of computers for these applications. Experience of popular spreadsheets or modelling languages would be a distinct advantage. The applicant would be expected to expand their knowledge in this area and would be given every encouragement to do so.

TRAINEE APPLICATION PROGRAMMERS £9k - £11k + Bonus

A vacancy exists for a person to join a team and assist in the development and implementation of computer based reporting systems. The work will initially involve programming in EXPRESS (for which full training will be provided) with opportunities to develop in other contemporary application languages and with progression, after training and relevant experience, to some system analysis and design work. Applicants should be new graduates (aged 21/23) with a reasonable degree, preferably in a subject related to computers or accountancy. Numeracy and accuracy are essential.

Applicants for either position should send a CV with a handwritten letter explaining their background and interests to:

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We therefore wish to appoint an experienced office administrator who is prepared to undertake the challenging task of assisting in improving the support to the fee-earning staff.

An attractive package will be offered to the successful applicant. Please reply with C.V. in confidence to:-

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Directors Education Assets Board

Under the Education Reform Bill, the establishment of the Education Assets Board (EAB) will take place when the Bill receives Royal Assent, expected shortly. This development will result in the new Board taking on key responsibilities concerning the transfer of property, rights and liabilities in the education sector.

First to be affected will be over 60 Polytechnics and Colleges.

Acting on behalf of these institutions, the EAB will secure the proper identification of the property, rights and liabilities to be transferred to them under the new legislation, reaching appropriate written agreements with local education authorities.

The Board intends to make the following executive appointments, all of which offer superb career-enhancing challenges.

Director (Legal)

As the senior legal adviser in and to the Board you will, within the context of the Bill, establish the legal framework for the Board's activities and have prime responsibility to ensure the Board undertakes its responsibilities and fulfils its statutory tasks. Duties will include liaising with solicitors appointed to act on the Board's behalf.

You will also monitor and encourage the progress of the transfer agreements between Colleges/Polytechnics and LEAs. As manager of the Board's legal department you will be responsible for staffing and recruitment.

An experienced lawyer or legal adviser in a commercial organisation, you will need the personal presence and communication skills to control effectively the Board's relationships with authorities and the appointed solicitors.

Director (Property)

You will be the Board's adviser and executive responsible for policy formulation, valuation and

negotiation on property matters. Your key objective will be the transfer of the relevant assets and liabilities by the due date (1st April 1989).

However, much work also needs to be done concerning earmarking, shared use, duration, management, control and valuation of property; this will involve you in negotiation with local education authorities. Managing the Board's property department, you will play a major role in staffing and recruitment.

Aged at least 30, you should be a Chartered Surveyor or qualified to an equivalent level. Personal qualities must include drive, enthusiasm and good all-round property management skills.

Director (Finance and Administration)

You will be the Board's adviser and executive responsible for loans and other financial issues relating to the relevant transferrals. Your other responsibility will be to play a key management role in establishing the financial, operational and managerial procedures of the Board itself.

Experience of local authority finance and the financial aspects of property transfer/disposal would be an advantage, together with a track record of successful financial management.

The excitement of these opportunities lies within their being a key part of a new organisation which will, in the first phase alone, be involved in the transfer of some £4 billion worth of assets. Together you will form the senior management team of the Education Assets Board, reporting directly to the Chief Executive.

The EAB will be based in Leeds; regular Board meetings, at which you will be expected to present papers, will take place in London.

All appointments, which are rewarded with generous remuneration packages, are initially for a period of two years. Highly qualified applicants on secondment, or those seeking 12-18 month appointments, will also be considered, as will 'evergreen' professionals seeking a late career challenge.

Please write in confidence, enclosing full career and salary details, to: Mr Bryan D Emmett, Chief Executive, Education Assets Board, Rm 8/7, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH.



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The responsibilities of these positions will encompass the review of EDP systems in development. This will require an in-depth appraisal of systems including the evaluation of controls and

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Our client has a need for young, talented and ambitious Systems Analysts with a minimum of three years DP experience. This will include analysis and design of computer systems together with a good knowledge of database and communications concepts. The ability to demonstrate excellent persuasive and communication skills is essential.

Chase Manhattan offer a highly competitive salary with a wide range of additional benefits. Opportunities for European travel also exist and future career development within the Bank are unequalled.

For further details call Nicola Lawrence on 01-580 0555 (office hours) or 01-479 3278 (evenings and weekends). Alternatively write enclosing a detailed C.V. to her at H-Capability Group, 25 Gosfield Street, London W1P 7HB.



PROPERTY RESEARCH

Edward Erdman is a leading firm of Surveyors and its Research Department has earned a reputation for the quality and integrity of its products, both from within and from clients. The practice maintains a policy to develop and expand the research function.

Rapidly increasing demand for our research expertise necessitates the early appointment of another Research Analyst, to work on a wide range of studies covering all aspects of the property market.

While an understanding of the property industry would clearly be useful, it is not essential; more importantly the successful applicant, probably aged in their late 20's, will display:-

- a degree in a related discipline - eg Geography, Economics or Business Studies
- several years' business/research experience
- a high degree of initiative and analytical expertise,
- a high level of numeracy plus computer literacy or willingness to learn it.
- the proven ability to write lucidly and concisely
- proven communication skills and ability to deal sensitively with clients at all levels

Salary will be commensurate with experience. Please apply in handwriting with full typewritten CV to Lindsay Caton, Head of Research, Edward Erdman, 6 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 0AD



3 Major computer suppliers are currently expanding their operations and seek to recruit people in the following areas:

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Oxford Circus, Bedford, Croydon, Tooting, Great Portland St.

Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund

Registered as the National Society for Cancer Relief

PRESS OFFICE ASSISTANT

Cancer relief Macmillan Fund is a major national charity providing care and support for cancer patients through its Macmillan nurses and other services. Its London headquarters is looking for a Press Office Assistant to work in its Press & Public Relations Department which handles all aspects of the charity's corporate publicity.

The Press Assistant will work closely with the Press & PR Manager on national, regional, medical and nursing publicity, organising press functions and the production of publicity materials.

Applicants must have previous experience working in a press office and understand all aspects of media coverage, be able to write good copy fast, have a good telephone manner and typing skills. Age range 25+ Non-smoker.

Please send your CV marked 'Personnel' to: The Press & PR Manager, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, Anchor House, 15-19 Islington Square, London N1 3JZ.

WE NEED YOUR DRIVE

OPERATIONS MANAGER

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Rosanna McBlane, Personnel Manager, Securiguard Services (London) Limited, 10/12 Emerald Street London WC1N 3QX

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For further details and an application form please contact the British Library, Personnel, 2 Sheraton Street, London W1V 4BH. Tel: 01-323 7137.

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If you would like to discuss these opportunities informally, please feel free to telephone Roy Beaumont F.I.A. on 01-686 4355 ext. 2410.

HORIZONS

Trading on eastern premises

Leslie Devon, who regularly visits the Middle East selling his Victoria Jane children's wear, posed a question: "If I came up to you in the street and asked you for £20,000, just like that, would you give it to me?" Mr Devon, sunning himself, drink in hand, on the sweltering autumn sands of Dubai's Chicago Beach Hotel while he took an afternoon break from the Motexha/Childexpo fair, was summing up the pitfalls and the perks of dealing in this part of the world.

As for perks, all work stops in the heat of the afternoon. It is back to the hotel for a toll on the beach (in town hotels, you could go ice skating instead) with snacks from the beach bar, until it is time to shower and change for the 5 pm stint on the stall at the exhibition, in an air-conditioned hall, with your travelling expenses (like your selling space and hotel) likely to be substantially subsidised.

The pitfalls? You just might land a whacking great order and go bankrupt either filling it, or waiting to be paid. "Taking orders here without a letter of credit, and some sort of non-payment insurance" said Mr Devon, "is like handing over fistfuls of money. Even worse if you haven't talked your bank manager into financing all those months making the goods when you get back home."

Anyone thinking of trading in this area should pause, first, to recall that petrodollars are tied to US dollars, and that the bottom started to fall out of this oil market two or three years ago. The stronger the pound, the more the profit margin will have to be trimmed, to stay competitive. Arabs go bankrupt, too.

Homework needs doing carefully, and in depth. Where and how should you first visit the Middle East? Going off on your own is probably the worst choice.

Taking part in a trade mission, as part of a group investigating the market, making contacts with people who might either order from you or act as your agent, without the expense of manning a stall or bringing along samples is one way of looking at the prospects.

Joining a trade fair, normally as a member of a trade organization, is another. Either way, it helps with getting a visa, and — something which is crucial — making contact with someone there to act as a sponsor for future visits.

The would-be exporter should talk to his or her bank, to his regional Department of Trade and Industry and its British Overseas Trade Board departments, to the ECGD (Export Credits Guarantee Department, the independent organization set up by the government to insure against non-payment and guarantee loans) and the local chamber of commerce.

See your bank manager not only to ask him, as someone familiar with your business, about raising finance to cover

the increased cash flow problems of meeting orders, but also for the considerable advice the bank's export division can provide on credit, insurance, and specific trading markets.

Both the Midland and Barclays Bank, do very detailed but straightforward brochures on precisely how to handle financing orders — from definitions of letters of credit and so on, to specimen forms showing how they should be filled in. (One survey revealed that more than half the Letters of Credit presented were incorrect or incomplete; this is just one way of not being paid on time.)

You should do this for any export market, but it is particularly important when you are off to Arabia, as it is to have insurance against payment not being made, for whatever reason.

It has been known for six-figure contracts to be signed by apparently responsible heads of departments in the Middle East which are then repudiated by someone higher up, after completion and delivery. Here is where the ECGD

Jean Scroggie looks at the pitfalls and pleasures of doing business in an Arabian country

premium helps: it gives access to their bank of credit-worthy data, much of it instantly available on computer, before you even commit yourself.

In the Middle East today, local lawyers are American-trained and very sharp indeed; going to court there is very costly. It really is essential to consult the ECGD before undertaking any export business in this area. You can fax or telex them during negotiations as well, to check on deals and dealers.

The regional branch of the DTI can put you in touch with relevant departments of the BOTB, which has immensely helpful booklets, market research reports and advice on the various regions in the Middle East — dealing with Saudi Arabia, for instance, is not the same as in Iraq, or the comparatively sophisticated markets in Jordan, or parts of the United Arab Emirates.

They can tell you of missions or fairs which you might join. Your local Chamber of Commerce is another rich source of information on missions and fairs: these often include a mixed bag of manufacturers.

British embassies, and other local sources in Arabia co-operate closely in providing a wealth of useful information which is constantly up dated by them, the banks, the ECGD the DTI. It would be silly to deny yourself access to it. It is also silly to ignore specific Arab customs:

in Arabia it is insulting to show the soles of your feet; do not use your left hand, especially to eat; coffee offered must be drunk — two cups then wobble the empty cup to signify you have had enough. Alcohol is banned in many countries. Arrange introductions; do not just drop in. Smile, shake hands, a lot. Courtesies matter, and no business will be done until they have been exchanged.

Be patient: you will often be kept waiting or friends or colleagues will wander in and chat while you are "dealing". Your firm or company may have to make two or three trips to the country (and send the same person each time) before you will be trusted enough for an order to be placed, which is why a good agent is a good idea.

Avoid Ramadan, and the months when it is hottest and most humid — anyone with money will have gone to a cooler climate. Find out about regional attitudes to credit. Certain areas, such as Kuwait, are "cash markets" and in Saudi Arabia, for example, interest is officially illegal. Contracts involving interest may have to disguise it in the total price, and if it should come to court, a Saudi lawyer might well notice and discount this element.

Finally, remember two things: a good rep. can sell anything — almost anything. Sand and plastic palm trees have been exported to the Middle East, although fancy bracts did not attract a single order at that autumn fashion fair.

Pay your own debts: one Brit who forgot about a few thousands he owed in Saudi showed up there on a subsequent trip and was whisked straight from the airport to a Saudi jail, where he languished very unhappily until friends managed to raise the cash to spring him from prison and back on an aircraft out of the country.

Addresses:
● ECGD: Head office, PO Box 272, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 8AY (tel. 01-3827000). Also regional offices

● Department of Trade and Industry (for British Overseas Trade Board facilities): contact regional branch first: 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET has BOTB Middle East desks — Arabian Gulf, 01 215 5096/5396; other Middle East countries, 01 215 4367.

● Association of British Chambers of Commerce, Sovereign House, 2121A Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EW

● The Middle East Association, 33 Bury Street, London SW1 (01 839 2137) membership fee, £600, London standard, tax allowable

Information: Arabian Peninsula in Business: The Economist Business Travellers' Guide (Collins, £12.95)

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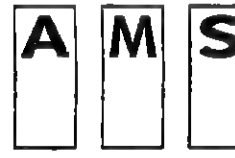
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CRICKET: SURREY ARE GIVEN SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE HALF A CENTURY ON

Smith surfaces with century

By John Woodcock

GUILDFORD: Surrey have scored 181 for one against Hampshire. Hampshire were soon brought back to earth yesterday after their runaway victory in the Benson and Hedges. In the 46.2 overs that were possible before a start delayed until 2 p.m. and an early finish three hours later, Surrey made 181 for one, David Smith surfacing with an unbeaten 101.

By a happy chance it was 50 years ago to the day that Surrey played their first championship match at Guildford, and that, too, was against Hampshire. Although not quite in the way that used to be so, it has a reputation as a batsman's ground, the pace boundaries being nice and short, and the pitch easy-paced. "This and Sidmouth were my favourites," Peter Wreford, who scored vast quantities of runs in club cricket, says.

The week's first-class cricket here is much enjoyed; but the Oval still has to be "saved" and that is enormously important. As Surrey edge towards the £1 million they need for that purpose — and they have a dauntingly long way yet to go — they talk warmly of those who are helping them close the gap — like the clergyman who has just replaced his car to spare £100 for the cause.

No one suffered more reaction yesterday from Saturday's triumph than Jeffries, who had had most of all to do with it. The ball neither swung, as it had at Lord's, nor moved about off the pitch. For a change, batsmen had to be got out. The only one who was, the older of the Bicknells, was nicely caught at second slip in the sixth over.

By then Smith was going well and playing with a fine disdain. Where has he been, and what has he been doing since, at Port of Spain, he made top score in each innings in his last Test match — the fourth of England's last ill-fated tour of the Caribbean?

He played the West Indian fast bowling as well then as anyone else on the tour, using all his height to scotch the rising ball and unflinching against the short stuff. That he has not come into the reckoning since does seem a waste of talent; but I dare say his temperament, like his back,

has not always been a help to him.

In yesterday's first over he drove Jeffries at head height wide of mid on — the sort of stroke with which Bob Barber, another left hander, would startle John Edrich by playing in the opening over of a Test match. When Jeffries came off his five overs had cost 38 runs, most of them to Smith. It was a rare piece of batting with which to start a championship match and a compliment to the groundsman.

With Stewart playing strokes through extra cover off the back foot of the utmost brilliance, Hampshire, who had chosen to field, were soon searching for an answer at both ends and looking not much like finding one. We had Maru bowling slow left arm by the sixteenth over (79 for one). I suppose it is no wonder that the first spinner in the bowling averages comes 38th when as useful a performer as Cowley is seen as a one-day specialist.

After taking one for 17 in 11 overs on Saturday he was left out yesterday.

It was said that as staunch a servant as Tim Tremlett was missing from Hampshire's final. No one has worked harder over the years to get them to Lord's, or would have bowled better there in some conditions. His absence, though, has given a chance to Jonathan Ailing, an old boy of Portsmouth Grammar School (an *alma mater* of the great Walter Hammond) and he has taken it well.

Ailing is tall and bowls near the stumps, not with a lot of body but with a high arm and a ball that, by cutting away off the pitch, keeps the slips on their toes. He looks well fitted for the job that Tremlett has done so well for most of the eighties.

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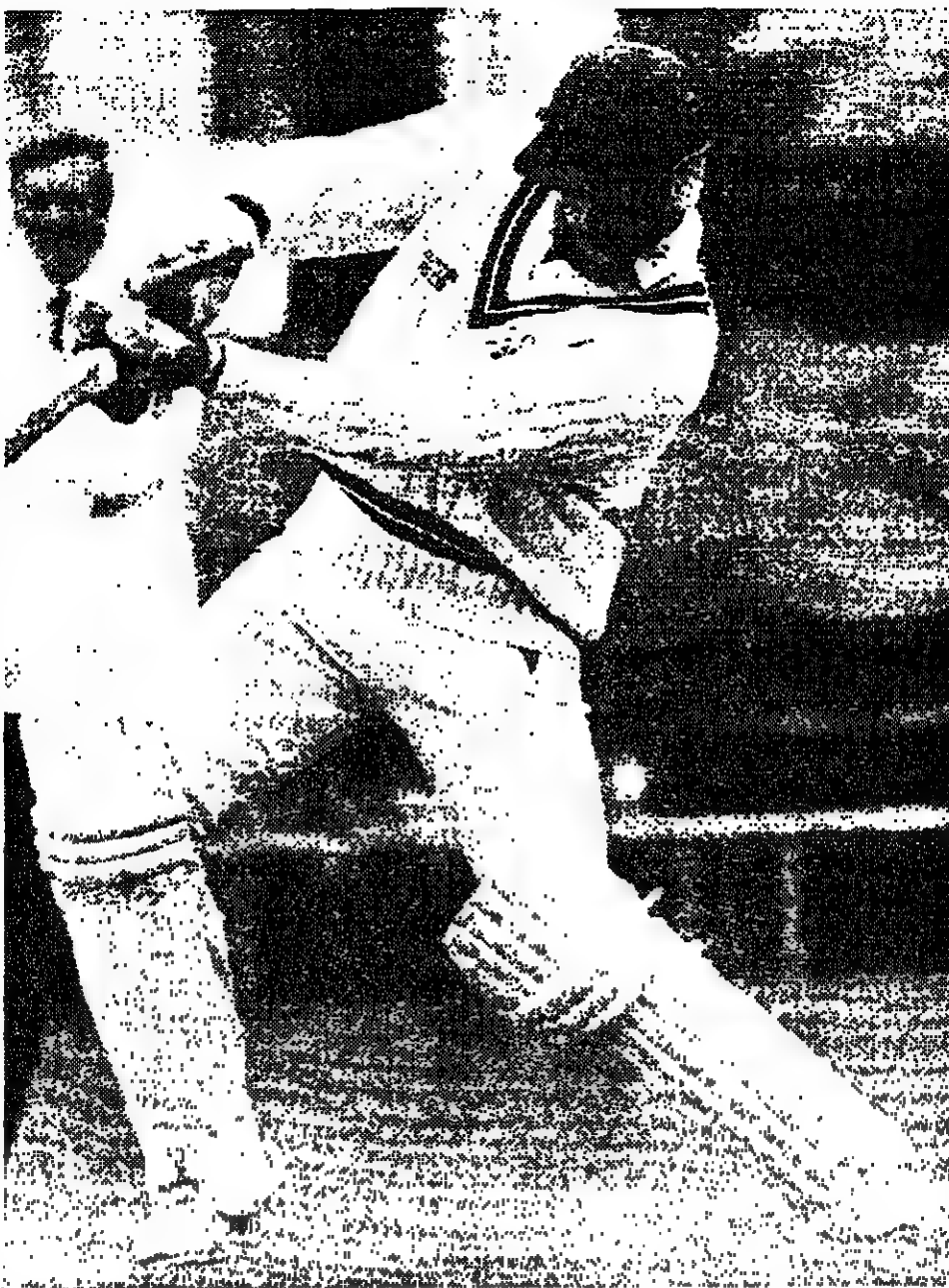
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In the driving seat: Smith steers towards his century (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Munton lands a rich haul

By Jack Bailey

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 114 runs behind Hampshire.

A pitch which was receptive to seam and spin, a career-best effort from Tim Munton, who in an astonishingly accurate spell took six wickets for 21 runs from 19 successive overs, and a joyous moment in the career of Adrian Pierson, whose off spin plucked the very heart from Worcestershire's batting, were the features of a truncated day which left Warwickshire, at least temporarily in the ascendant.

Worcestershire's decision to bat must have been a marginal one in the moist conditions and it remained marginal, even when Curtis and Hick were at the wicket, picking off the odd boundary in neo-classical style.

Curtis played correctly and well for his 26 runs which were accumulated while 33 overs were bowled. He used all his considerable defensive technique to survive the combined efforts of Small and Merrick, and it came as a surprise when he was bowled when on the back

foot to Pierson. The off-break turned and kept low, although the ball which had accounted for Hick in similar manner during Pierson's previous over, was a result of Hick's own extravagance, as he tried to force a ball that turned into him, square on the off-side.

These two thrusts by Pierson, presaged the beginning of the end for Worcestershire. And when Neale also succumbed to him, Pierson had not only nearly doubled his haul for this season, but he had taken three wickets for two runs in twenty balls.

Munton is a different cup of tea. He is the sort of stock bowler every county would like to have in their touring bag. A brisk medium, sure of line and length, seemingly tireless, tall and strong, he bowled seam up and, in these conditions, things happened for him.

Nobody could force him away. Everyone was vulnerable. In his 19 overs only ten scoring shots were played. At one stage he had taken three wickets for one run from twelve overs.

When he had bowled 13 overs his tally was four wickets for five runs and — ominous sign — he had seen off the promising Leathemdale with a ball which hardly left the deck.

Worcestershire First Innings
T. S. Curtis b Pierson 28
S. J. O'Shaughnessy b Pierson 23
A. Hick b Pierson 23
P. A. Neale b Pierson 12
M. J. Weston b Pierson 12
D. A. Leathemdale b Pierson 12
D. J. Rhodes b Pierson 12
P. J. Newport b Pierson 12
R. K. Wiggworth b Pierson 12
G. H. Dwyer b Pierson 12
Extras (b 14, w 4) 18
Total (38 overs) 130
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-58, 3-68, 4-70, 5-70, 6-75, 7-81, 8-86, 9-100.
BOWLING: Small 11-32-5; Merrick 8-5-12; Munton 19-21-5; Neale 1-12-1.
Warwickshire First Innings
T. A. Lloyd not out 13
A. J. Miles not out 1
Extras (b 1, w 1) 2
Total (no wk, 5 overs) 16
Asif Din, D. A. Benka, D. A. Thomas, P. A. Smith, P. C. L. Holloway, G. P. Small, A. T. B. T. A. Munton and A. R. K. Pierson.

Bonus points: Warwickshire 4, Worcestershire 0.
Umpires: H. D. Bird and S. Dudson.

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Bonus points: Warwickshire 4, Worcestershire 0.
Umpires: H. D. Bird and S. Dudson.

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A. J. Miles not out 1
Extras (b 1, w 1) 2
Total (no wk, 5 overs) 16
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Lancashire lack a sense of urgency

By Richard Streeton

OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won last): Lancashire have scored 304 for eight wickets against Leicestershire.

The past week without any championship fixtures has been cricket's equivalent of half-term, a time for taking stock. This particular match could well have considerable bearing on the final table. Leicestershire are currently equal third, Lancashire stand seventh and both remain within range of the teams above them.

Certainly they must have expectations of finishing in the prize money, at least, so it was surprising in the circumstances that Lancashire early on did not show more urgency. By tea they were a meagre 160 for three from 73 overs. The tempo picked up afterwards thanks to Watkinson but the failure to secure maximum bonus points was self deprivation that was hard to understand.

Mendis all summer has been the only Lancashire batsman regularly to show confidence or form. Watching most of the others struggle once more, makes it all the more timely a moment for Atherton to arrive from Cambridge. Atherton played his part in the strong Lancashire finish to the 1987 season, when they won their last six matches to finish champions. He is a good batsman and is too promising a player to be kept languishing long in the second team.

Leicestershire's pace attack apart from DeFreitas seldom caused much trouble. Willey and Such bowled steadily but at times were treated with exaggerated respect on a good pitch. Thanks to the new ball covering the entire square was dry and good overcast and ten minutes at the start was the only time lost.

Mendis and Fowler had no cause to hurry their strokes until DeFreitas bowled. The score was 47 when Mendis got himself into a tangled deal with a bounce and was caught off his glove. Jesty gave silly point a bat and pad catch when Such bowled the last over before lunch.

Such, playing only his second championship match, this season was not afraid to give the ball plenty of air. He remains a player whose career could blossom when there is the chance for regular opportunities. He and Willey kept Fowler and Fairbrother tightly reined as they made a good start with 74 in 36 overs.

By now the sun was beating down, making a mockery of the forecast. Fowler ended a poor sequence of scores with 76 in his last first-class innings a week ago and he came within three of a century before he was bowled off his pads trying to drive.

Fairbrother, too, has temporarily mislaid his touch and had been in 48 overs for 43 when he drove a high catch to dead mid-off. This was in the 79th over and Watkinson after a cautious start at last began to look for runs. Everyone else tried to help but Willey and Such kept their heads and several good catches were taken by the Leicestershire.

The innings looked to be in its death throes before Simmons, with some beefy blows, became Watkinson's most fruitful partner.

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G. Fowler b Ferns 14
T. E. Jesty b Gower b Such 14
D. J. Rhodes b Willey b Such 14
M. J. Watkinson b Willey b Such 14
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Extras (b 14, w 4) 18
Total (38 overs) 304
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-47, 2-53, 3-67, 4-75, 5-100, 6-123, 7-123, 8-123, 9-123.
Score after 100 overs: 254 for 8.
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The Times preview of the 117th Open Championship which tees off today

Chances of a play-off are wide open

By Mitchell Platt
Golf Correspondent

The healthiest paradox of the 117th Open Championship, which starts at Royal Lytham and St Annes today, is that the greatest golfing show on earth cannot possibly hope to produce an undisputed champion of the world.

It matters not if Tom Watson equals Harry Vardon's record of six Open triumphs... if Nick Faldo beats Sandy Lyle to a second Open title... if Severiano Ballesteros returns to centre-stage... or if Curtis Strange completes a momentous summer double.

What matters most is that this championship promises to move towards a spectacular crescendo with a whole cast of players eagerly jostling for

the title over the intimidating closing stretch. Indeed, the likeliest conclusion is that the first Open play-off since Watson edged out the Australian, Jack Newton, in 1975 will be needed on Sunday evening to decide the issue.

The evidence to support that belief is substantial. Since Bob Tway decided the 1986 US PGA Championship by holing an audacious bunker shot at the 72nd hole, each of the six subsequent major championships has kept the spectators in suspense through to the last shot.

Last year Larry Mize (Masters) and Larry Nelson (US PGA Championship) grasped glory with play-off triumphs. In between, Scott Simpson (US Open) and Faldo (Open Championship) stood behind the 18th greens at Olympic and Muirfield with victory unsure until

Watson and Paul Azinger decided fate by forfeiting their own hopes.

Even fresher to the mind is Lyle's astonishing bunker shot followed by the 10ft putt which won for him the Masters in April. Then came that engrossing play-off for the US Open between Strange and Faldo.

So the feeling, especially now that the Ryder Cup is a contest rather than a celebration for American jingoism, is that no one player will ever dominate again like Jack Nicklaus.

Strange said: "I would like to be recognized as No. 1 but we cannot talk like that in today's golfing world. There are more than a handful of players capable of achieving that status but right now they can all beat each other at given times. I believe the game is healthier now

for not having one dominant player. Let's face it, the popularity of golf is continuing to grow so fast that the present situation has to be right."

Moreover, the finest golfers in the world, with the exception of the injured Greg Norman, are this week ready not only to do themselves justice but also to uphold the integrity of a game which thankfully remains divorced from boardroom squabbles and bawdy behaviour.

The pre-championship banter, and in essence it is little more than that, concerning transatlantic friction can be dismissed. When the master craftsmen of their trade go to work this morning, their only enemies will be the environment and the elements.

It takes a special talent to appreciate an examination such as Lytham and

extraordinary resilience when the wind combines with the rain to protect further a links already more than adequately guarded by rough and deep bunkers.

The likes of Faldo and Lyle, Ballesteros and Langer, must be the leading European contenders because they are so well versed in conquering such conditions. Watson, with those five Open victories, must remain the leading American challenger.

He said: "This is an unheralded British Open course. But I like it very much. It was here in 1979, when Seve won, that I changed my mind on Open venues. I didn't play well. I didn't like the bouncing, running shots but I began to understand the type of play it required to be successful."

Strange is the latest American to join

the appreciation club and compatriots such as Ben Crenshaw, Payne Stewart and Azinger have demonstrated their liking for the links. Chip Beck, Mark Calcavecchia, Fred Couples and Lanny Wadkins also have claims.

David Frost, of South Africa, Roger Davis, of Australia, and Mark McNulty, of Zimbabwe, will represent their countries with pride, so offering a further challenge to the likes of Gordon Brand Jr, Ken Brown, Howard Clark, Mark James and Ian Woosnam, who hope to follow in the footsteps of Tony Jacklin (1969), Lyle (1985) and Faldo (1987).

All that serves to fuel the theory that this championship really is wide open and that there is no reason why a Barry Lane or a Jose-Maria Olazábal should not announce his arrival as a true contender.

Ballesteros charts the perils of the course he conquered

1 206 yards (par 3): In my opinion, it is a straight forward opening hole. A lot of golfers are not happy having a par three at the start of a round, the hardest part in the Open. The easiest part is judging the wind because the tee is set back in the trees. It is only a five or six-iron, unless the wind is against, and you can only make trouble for yourself by missing the green.

2 437 yards (par 4): The dangerous place to go is to the right because of the trees, the railway line and the out-of-bounds. But I do not like the thought of going left because there are two difficult bunkers. So it is very important to hit the fairway, perhaps a touch to the right side, to have the best shot into a green which is small and difficult. Probably an iron off the tee.

3 457 yards (par 4): Accuracy is the key again here. This time it is probably best to favour the left side of the fairway since there are more undulations to the right. With the railway line also still there, it is a hole where you can make a birdie, if you hit the drive long and straight.

4 393 yards (par 4): Because the hole doglegs to the left, with a couple of bunkers at the elbow, it is almost as if those hazards are set in the middle of the fairway. In my opinion, it is better to hit an iron off the tee, even if the hole is played into the wind, which normally is the case. The green is well guarded so you must set yourself up to approach it from the best angle, which is probably the right side of the fairway.

5 212 yards (par 3): This hole often plays longer than it looks. It is a very good short hole because it is extremely well protected by four bunkers on the left and two bunkers on the right. Big problems if you come up short.

6 490 yards (par 5): The green has been moved about 15 yards to the left since 1979. It will make for a more difficult approach shot and the drive will now need to be hit a little more to the right. The deep bunker to the left of the fairway must be avoided. It is a hole where you will hope to leave the green with a birdie.

Severiano Ballesteros remembers well walking along the 18th fairway of the Royal Lytham and St Annes course on the final day of the Open Championship in 1979. "I told Dave Musgrove, my caddy, 'Well, I think we win the Open,'" the Spaniard recalled. "Dave looked at me and said: 'Yes, but you must take two putts from where you are because I bet that somebody would be under par for the week and you are the only one with that chance. So make sure you take only two putts - OK.'"

Ballesteros, of course, did as instructed, before the thrill of winning his first major championship triggered tears of happiness. "It was a very emotional moment," Ballesteros added. "All my brothers were there. Royal Lytham was great but I think St Andrews in 1984 was even better because, you know, it is the Open at the home of golf."

"Any time you walk down the last hole at the Open, whether you win or not, there are so many people clapping and cheering that the atmosphere makes you feel so good. But if you are the champion then it is a fantastic feeling. It is very hard for me to describe it."

Ballesteros, however, has described for *The Times* the 18 holes of the Royal Lytham and St Annes course where the 117th Open championship will be crowned.

He believes that the sand wedge could once again be the most important club in the bag. He said: "There are so many bunkers that sooner or later you will be in some of them. The key to Lytham will be the weather. The outward nine is usually easier and you must make your score there. You need to have a few shots in the bank. If it does blow hard then you will see some high scores."

7 549 yards (par 5): To the right we have the railway line again, but it is not a threat. The problems, as so often at Lytham, are caused by the bunkers. A cluster of them are to the right, so it is far better to miss the fairway on the left. But if you are a too cautious, then there is also a bunker set that to trap you. It is still a hole where you can make a birdie.

8 394 yards (par 4): If the wind is blowing, you can feel it at this point more than anywhere else on the course. There really is no need to take a wood as the important thing is to be accurate off the tee. The green is elevated and it is easy to misjudge the approach shot. You cannot afford to do so with three bunkers short of the putting surface and one either side of it.

9 164 yards (par 3): There are a lot of bunkers here! Ten in total - it is unbelievable. It is so easy to go into any one of them which is why it is a good hole. Very important, then, to hit a positive shot on the right line.

10 334 yards (par 4): I regard this as a very tough hole. In length it is short but it can be very severe going into the wind. I remember that I was twice in the front right bunker in 1979. The hole also

doglegs slightly to the right so position is important off the tee with a precise shot needed to find the elevated green.

11 542 yards (par 5): I can tell you one thing: against the wind, you cannot reach this hole in two shots. Some may think it is worth gambling by cutting the corner and going over the two bunkers down the left. You will be looking, of course, for a birdie if the wind doesn't blow.

12 198 yards (par 3): This hole I like very much, although it is tough. It often plays a three or four-iron and with six bunkers surrounding the green, it is a small target. You will give yourself a very difficult shot if you miss on the right. I was down there three times in 1979 so I should know.

13 342 yards (par 4): Here you can almost reach the green. But there are big bunkers 25 yards short of it. In fact, the hole has 16 bunkers! I usually lay up with a two-iron and hit a little pitching wedge. On the last day in 1979 I hit my driver and the ball struck the top of the bunker 70 yards short of the green and fell back down. My sand wedge caught a little slope on the green and the ball rolled just off. It was still

only 20 feet away - I made it for a birdie.

14 445 yards (par 4): Some see this as a fairly comfortable hole but I think it is a very difficult tee shot. You want to be down the left-centre of the fairway. But the wind tends to blow everything from left to right towards a lot of humps. That is not the place to be as you then go at a small green which is hard to hit.

15 463 yards (par 4): In my opinion, it is the hardest hole. Even if you hit the fairway, there are so many undulations that you don't know what kind of lie you are going to get. In the third round in 1979 I tried to hit a low two-iron, but the ball hit one of the humps. It didn't go too far and I had a difficult time to the green. The green seems to slope from front to back and left to right so throwing the ball off it.

16 357 yards (par 4): They call it my "car park" hole. I call it the hole with a thousand bunkers. It seems that way, although there are only 16. I hit my drive to the right on the last day in 1979. I knew the pin was to the left so I wanted to come in from the right. I will admit it went further to the right than I intended and into the car park. This year, with out of bounds in that direction, it will probably be best to lay up with a one-iron then hit a nine-iron. We will wait and see!

17 462 yards (par 4): Another very tough hole with a lot of bunkers to the left. You must be very careful not to go in them but at the same time you cannot go too far to the right. If you do then you face an even tougher shot over dead ground to the green. You must go with the driver off the tee but it will probably still be a three or four iron after that.

18 412 yards (par 4): This hole is a very well protected right and left, and with a cross-wind it can look very narrow. The tee has also been taken 30 yards back so that the fairway bunkers will come more into play. The green, of course, is surrounded by bunker and the clubhouse is right behind it.

ROYAL LYTHAM & ST ANNES

HOLE	YARDS	PAR	HOLE	YARDS	PAR
1	206	3	10	334	4
2	437	4	11	542	5
3	457	4	12	198	3
4	393	4	13	342	4
5	212	3	14	445	4
6	490	5	15	463	4
7	549	5	16	357	4
8	394	4	17	462	4
9	164	3	18	412	4
OUT	3302	35	IN	3555	38
TOTAL		6857			73

OPEN FACTS AND FIGURES

HOW TO GET THERE: Road Junction 32 of M6, then M55 to end and follow signs to public car parks, which cost £3. Frequent and free shuttle services to courses. Train: Change at Preston for Andover and Fairhaven and join course at ninth hole. St Annes station is 20min from course. Bus: Service from Preston and Blackpool.

ADMISSION: Course entry is £11 and £5 for senior citizens and under-16s daily.

COURSE: Royal Lytham and St Annes, formed in 1886, became the ninth course to stage the Open in 1928 when Bobby Jones, an amateur of the United States, triumphed. There were 296 entrants compared with 1,353 this year, 156 of whom comprise the field, an unusual link as it offers no view of the sea. Seats for the special composite and reserves stands at the eighteenth green have been sold but there are stands with free seats for approximately 14,500 spectators each day. The full scoreboard, leader board and a closed circuit television display in the clubhouse will keep visitors informed. Cameras are banned during the championship.

PLAY-OFF: In the event of a tie, those involved will play off over four holes, the second, third, fourth and eighth, with the aggregate score deciding the winner. If the players are still level, it will then go into sudden-death over the same four holes. This method is untried because

there has not been a tie since 1975 at Carnoustie, when Tom Watson (US) beat Jack Newton (Aus) over an 18-hole play-off.

Leading prizes

1	£250,000	11	£17,000	21	£7,000
2	£200,000	12	£16,000	22	£7,000
3	£150,000	13	£15,000	23	£6,000
4	£120,000	14	£14,000	24	£5,000
5	£100,000	15	£13,000	25	£4,000
6	£80,000	16	£12,000	26	£3,000
7	£70,000	17	£11,000	27	£2,000
8	£60,000	18	£10,000	28	£1,000
9	£50,000	19	£9,000	29	£1,000
10	£40,000	20	£8,000	30	£1,000

TELEVISION COVERAGE: BBC TV has more than 30 hours of coverage scheduled with more than 20 countries, including Finland and Zimbabwe for the first time, taking live transmission. On Saturday and Sunday, there will be satellite coverage every hour from 22 cameras and 40 miles of cable.

LATEST PRICES: (City Index) 8-1 Faldo; 10-1 Ballesteros; Lyle 14-1 Crenshaw; McNulty, Strange, 16-1 Langer; 20-1 Woosnam; 25-1 Azinger, Frost, Olazábal; 30-1 Watson, Beck, Couples, Davis, Calcavecchia; 40-1 Lyle; 50-1 O'Meara; 60-1 Sander; 80-1 Brown; 90-1 Bar.

PRIZE-MONEY: This totals £700,000. All professionals playing in the championship will receive a minimum of £450.

DRAW FOR FIRST TWO ROUNDS

(British and Irish unless stated)
07.15 today and 11.50 tomorrow
Mackay (Aus), D J Russell, T Foster,
07.25 and 12.01 M Pearson (Swe), L
Mann, M Asen (US).
07.27 and 12.12 C Tucker, P Mitchell,
P Cannon.
07.48 and 12.23 S Torrance, R Floyd (US),
N Nicklaus (US), J A Forsberg (Swe), D
Graham (Aus), D Love III (US).
08.10 and 12.45 R White, R Weir, G
Bruchner (US).
08.21 and 12.56 J M Calcavecchia (Sp), P
Sewer (Aus), M McCumber (US),
08.32 and 13.07 R Richardson (SA), G
Curry, B Macdonald.
08.43 and 13.18 P Watson, R Pate (US), M
Reid (US).
08.54 and 13.29 S Ballesteros (Sp), P
Foster (Aus), J Zoller (US).
09.05 and 13.40 G Selberg (Swe), D Frost
(SA), H Green (US), L Lane, H Miesher
(Japan), J Haas (US).
09.28 and 14.13 D Durrant, S Verplank
(US), M Calcavecchia (US).
09.49 and 14.24 M Langer (Swe), W Riley
(Aus), C Pavin (US).
10.00 and 14.35 M Palmer (Sp), Chien-
Sheng Hsien (Taiwan), P Stewart (US),
10.11 and 14.46 E Darcy, N Raloff (Aus),
J Miller (US).
10.22 and 14.57 R Chapman, T Kilo (US),
R Tway (US).
10.42 and 15.08 M Muland, G Player
(SA), J Benise (US).
10.44 and 15.10 G Brand Jr, M McNulty
(Zim), P Crenshaw (US).
10.55 and 15.20 D Whelan, Chien-Soon Lu
(Taiwan), T Eason (US).
11.06 and 15.41 I Woosnam, L Nelson
(US), C Beck (US).
11.17 and 15.52 A McCloskey, T Webster
(Zim), C Herd (Swe).
11.28 and 16.03 P Baker, R Commons
(US), N Burke.
11.39 and 16.14 A Nash, W Smith (Aus), A
Cotton.
11.50 and 16.25 G Stafford, J Cabo (Sp), J
Morgan.

12.01 and 07.15 M Smith, J Cook, C
Mason.
12.12 and 07.28 A Chandler, J Higgins, P
Broadhurst, S Bishop.
12.34 and 07.48 B Brown, B Charles (NZ),
C Stadler (US).
12.45 and 07.58 J Rocco (Sp), T
Johnstone (Zim), L Trevino (US).
12.56 and 08.10 A Rogers, P Akakalaka
(Hawaii), T Armour II.
13.07 and 08.21 C D Connor Jr, N Price
(SA), D Poley (US).
13.18 and 08.32 D Armstrong (Aus), D A
Russell, C Moody.
13.29 and 08.43 R Patterly, A Bean (US),
M O'Meara (US).
13.40 and 08.54 N Faldo, I Baker-Finch
(Aus), P Couples (US).
13.51 and 09.05 N Hansen, J Howell (US),
A Magee (US).
14.02 and 09.16 J A Olazábal (Sp), H
Bazdani (SA), L Wadkins (US).
14.13 and 09.27 D Cooper, A Jacklin, E
Sneed (US).
14.24 and 09.38 R Davis (Aus), L Mize
(US), C Strange (US).
14.35 and 09.49 G J Brand, I Aoki (Japan).
14.46 and 10.00 B Faxon (US), D Gilford,
C Rymmer (US).
14.57 and 10.11 H Clark, G Marsh (Aus), G
Rook (US).
15.08 and 10.22 M James, M Harwood
(Aus), A North (US).
15.18 and 10.33 S Lyle, D Ishii (US), P
Azinger (US).
15.29 and 10.44 R Lee, J Brand (SA), B
Langer (US).
15.41 and 10.55 G Townhill, W Grady
(Aus), A Sherborne.
15.52 and 11.06 D Prosser, M Roe, G
Taylor (Aus).
16.03 and 11.17 J Rysrom (Swe), D Thore
(US), L Hedstrom (Swe).
16.14 and 11.28 F Thompson (US), S
Trevino (Swe), A Brough (NI).
16.25 and 11.39 D Jones, S Stephen, D
Williams.
* denotes amateur.

A CONCISE GUIDE TO THE CREDENTIALS OF 14 CONTENDERS FOR GOLF'S MOST COVETED TITLE

NICK FALDO (GB): Ht: 6ft 3in. Wt: 145lb. Age: 31 on Monday. Majors: Open Championship (1987). Sorry world ranking: 8. At present the most complete golfer in the world from tee to green. New swing gives him the versatility to move the ball either way in the wind, a blessing on links. Strong temperament when under severe pressure. Successful defence will depend on his putting touch. Open Championship form: 7, 19, 12, 11, 4, 10, 6, 54, 5, 1.

PAUL AZINGER (US): Ht: 6ft 2in. Wt: 125lb. Age: 28. Majors: None. Sorry world ranking: 10. Outstanding bunker player, so the sands of Lytham will be a major test. Most valuable club - the driver. Desires to make up for last year's bogey-bogey finish might do so. Must remain composed. Decisively long driver, although surprisingly not the straightest. Average putter. Meteoric rise demands major championship win to seal achievements. Open Championship form (from 1987): 2.

SEVERIANO BALLESTEROS (Spain): Ht: 5ft 4in. Wt: 125lb. Age: 31. Majors: None. Sorry world ranking: 7. Craftsman on the greens. Insists he is not the putter he is, but by telling that to his rivals. Shortened swing has considerably improved his game. Still not the most accurate of drivers but a fine striker through the irons. It was six and out at the 71st last time around at Muirfield. Open Championship form (from 1985): 25 (as an amateur), 16, 11, 1, 39, 6, 50.

BEN CRENSHAW (US): Ht: 5ft 9in. Wt: 125lb. Age: 36. Majors: Masters (1984). Sorry world ranking: 3. Craftsman on the greens. Insists he is not the putter he is, but by telling that to his rivals. Shortened swing has considerably improved his game. Still not the most accurate of drivers but a fine striker through the irons. It was six and out at the 71st last time around at Muirfield. Open Championship form (from 1985): 25 (as an amateur), 16, 11, 1, 39, 6, 50.

FRED COUPLES (US): Ht: 5ft 11in. Wt: 135lb. Age: 28. Majors: None. Sorry world ranking: 90. Maturing as a golfer. Has learnt how to adapt and manage his game to meet specific demands. Initially his own worst enemy. Now works at the game and wants the rewards. Still needs to harness his, at times, prodigious power. Great knack at recovering from tough spots. Not the best on the greens. Open Championship form (from 1984): 4, X, 46, 40.

DAVID FROST (SA): Ht: 5ft 11in. Wt: 125lb. Age: 28. Majors: None. Sorry world ranking: 11. Too good a player to remain the perennial bridesmaid. He has been runner-up seven times on the US tour. Industrious golfer with methodical game containing few chinks. Lack of length off the tee could stifle his challenge if the wind blows on back nine. Rated highly by the Americans alongside whom he plays every week. Open Championship form (from 1984): 47, 25, X, 6.

BARRY LANE (GB): Ht: 5ft 10in. Wt: 125lb. Age: 28. Majors: None. Sorry world ranking: 33. Timely victory in Bell's Scottish Open. No shortage of determination. Powerful hitter with ability to drill a one-iron further than Lyle. This Open could still be part of his education. Lane 80, has the hallmark of a future champion. Form on the greens will decide his fate this time. Open Championship form: None.

BERNHARD LANGER (Germany): Ht: 5ft 9in. Wt: 115lb. Age: 30. Majors: Open Championship (1985). Sorry world ranking: 5. Confesses that the putter could betray him this week. It already has done this year. Yet possesses astonishing ability to conquer adversity. Back injury has quelled his driving power. Will not ease up this week if victory looms. If you want a lesson in long irons then few better players to study. Open Championship form (from 1980): 51, 2, 13, 56, 2, 3, 17.

SANDY LYLE (GB): Ht: 6ft 1in. Wt: 135lb. Age: 30. Majors: Open Championship (1985), Masters (1988). Sorry world ranking: 2. The coolest customer on the fairway. Sometimes you almost wish him to get mad to see if he can get into overdrive. Wins championships at a cruising pace. Most valuable club - the driver. Most contrary club - putter. Inspired by thought of becoming world No. 1 this week. Open Championship form (from 1980): 17, 12, 14, 8, X, 14, 1, X, 59, 11.

MARK MCNULTY (Zimbabwe): Ht: 5ft 10in. Wt: 119lb. Age: 34. Majors: None. Sorry world ranking: 42. Aiming to become the first Zimbabwean to win the Open. He has the game to last time first age should be no barrier. Has regained confidence with the driver. No question marks concerning his short game. His practice-makes-perfect policy ensures that. Open Championship form (from 1985): 25 (as an amateur), 16, 11.

JOSE-MARIA OLAZÁBAL (Spain): Ht: 5ft 10in. Wt: 115lb. Age: 22. Majors: None. Sorry world ranking: 5. Here to enjoy himself after ambivalent start with the Open. Seeks rare summer double. US Open victory solidified the feeling that he is America's new No. 1. Looks more intense on the course than he is. Confirmed precision player. His last hole saved at Brookline suggests he need not fear Lytham's bunkers. Open Championship form (from 1982): 15, 26, X, X, 14, X.

CURTIS STRANGE (US): Ht: 5ft 11in. Wt: 125lb. Age: 33. Majors: US Open (1987), 1982, 1987, US Open (1988), Masters (1977, 1981). Sorry world ranking: 22. Craves equanimity to his Open wins. Insists that this time he has the putter to make it. Has held for three years on the greens. Remains an expert from tee to green. Game should not be undermined by the sand. Hapless with slight swing change. Open Championship form: 14, 26, 1, 23, 1, 1, 2, 47, 35, 7.

TOM WATSON (US): Ht: 5ft 9in. Wt: 115lb. Age: 38. Majors: Open Championship (1975, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1983), US Open (1982), Masters (1977, 1981). Sorry world ranking: 22. Craves equanimity to his Open wins. Insists that this time he has the putter to make it. Has held for three years on the greens. Remains an expert from tee to green. Game should not be undermined by the sand. Hapless with slight swing change. Open Championship form: 14, 26, 1, 23, 1, 1, 2, 47, 35, 7.

Matches played 9th July 1988

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